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Latin America

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Preparations for Central American Summit Meeting

Contra Delegation Named

PA0812200989 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1857 GMT 8 Dec 89

[Text] Tegucigalpa, 8 Dec (ACAN - EFE)—The Nicaraguan contras have confirmed in Honduras that they will send a delegation to Costa Rica today in order to have an unofficial presence at the Central American summit and to reiterate their rejection of an immediate demobilization of their forces in Honduran territory.

The delegation is made up of Commanders Israel Galeano, chief of the general staff; Oscar Sobalbarro; Boanerges Mathus; Agustin Blandon; and civilian leader Aristides Sanchez, all of whom are regarded as "trusted men" of Colonel Enrique Bermudez, chief of the contras.

At a meeting in Tegucigalpa, the main anti-Sandinist leaders voted this week to "toughen" their bargaining positions with a view to the meeting of presidents, which is scheduled to open on Sunday, 10 December in San Jose, Costa Rica.

The Nicaraguan Resistance (RN) is demanding a greater say in the eventual presidential decisions regarding its future and claims that the agreement on disarmament reached by the fifth summit last August has not been complied with because it lacks its support.

Anti-Sandinist sources told ACAN-EFE that "the RN delegation will inform the presidents that it refuses to demobilize before the general elections in Nicaragua," which are scheduled for February.

"The demobilization will have to begin to be considered in earnest after the elections and this will depend on whether the election results are clean or fraudulent," the source stressed.

As a precondition for eventual negotiations with the Nicaraguan Government, the "contras" are demanding that the Sandinists declare a general amnesty and a cease-fire "under the supervision of the International Support and Verification Commission (CIAV)."

The CIAV, which is made up of UN and OAS delegates, was created to promote compliance with the agreements that were signed at the last summit on "demobilization, repatriation, or relocation" of the anti-Sandinists stationed in Honduras.

According to the sources, the "contras" expect the demobilization to be a topic of secondary importance at the summit.

The RN command feels that the presidents will focus most of their efforts on a review of the internal crisis in El Salvador and the recent suspension of relations between El Salvador and Nicaragua.

The "contras" have maintained an unofficial presence during the five Central American summits, which thus far have been held in Guatemala (two), El Salvador, Honduras, and Costa Rica.

Ministers Arrive, Comment

PA0912150389 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1257 GMT 9 Dec 89

[Text] San Jose, 9 Dec (ACAN - EFE)—Honduran Foreign Minister Carlos Lopez and Salvadoran Foreign Minister Manuel Pacas arrived in Costa Rica last night to participate in the preliminary meeting at which the agenda for the special Central American summit to be held in San Jose over the weekend will be drawn up.

The foreign ministers, who make up the executive commission of the regional peace agreements known as Esquipulas II, will meet today at the offices of the Costa Rican Foreign Ministry to discuss the topics to be broached by the Central American presidents on 10 December Sunday.

According to Foreign Minister Rodrigo Madrigal, who will host the meeting, this summit will be "the most difficult " because of the friction bewtween the Salvadoran and Honduran [as received] Governments, which suspended diplomatic relations 15 days ago.

Madrigal said recently that what the Salvadoran Government describes as "undue intervention" by Nicaragua in El Salvador's internal conflict is expected to be one of the hottest issues at the meeting of foreign ministers and at the summit.

Another topic to be discussed will be the Nicaraguan contras' stay in their camps in Honduras, which they should have vacated on 5 December according to the agreement reached by the presidents at the meeting held in August in Honduras. The preceding point is also causing some expectation because Nicaragua has revived its complaint against Honduras at the International Court of Justice in The Hague, accusing Honduras of allowing military forces to use its territory to attack Nicaragua.

The serious situation in El Salvador following the guerrillas' military offensive is another topic that will come up for discussion at the meetings, which are aimed at reactivating the regional peace process.

Ministers View Managua's Policies

PA0912163589 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1555 GMT 9 Dec 89

[Text] San Jose, 9 Dec (ACAN-EFE)—Honduran Foreign Minister Carlos Lopez and Salvadoran Foreign Minister Jose Pacas today said in Costa Rica that there are "bad predictions" for the Central American presidential summit, scheduled to begin 10 December, and condemned the Nicaraguan Government because, in their opinion, it is destabilizing the region.

Lopez and Pacas arrived in Costa Rica last night to participate in today's Central American foreign ministers' meeting, which must define the agenda to be discussed by the presidents in San Jose.

Foreign Minister Lopez criticized Managua's decision to reactivate the lawsuit against Honduras at the International Court of Justice at The Hague for allowing the use of its territory for the anti-Sandinist contra activities.

"I do not know why the Nicaraguan Government is in such a hurry to hold a summit when it is looking for violent solutions to the armed struggle in El Salvador but, on the other hand, advocates judicial solutions that are not within the presidents' framework," the Honduran foreign minister said.

The Salvadoran foreign minister said that the internal conflict in his country "would not have continued" if the Sandinist regime had ceased to exist in Central America.

El Salvador suspended relations with Nicaragua 2 weeks ago and accused the Sandinist regime of intervening in the civil war, waged in the country for the last 10 years, by supplying weapons to the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front (FMLN).

Pacas asserted that the Salvadoran Government, headed by Alfredo Cristiani, is willing to hold a dialogue with the FMLN rebels and also with Managua, although he did not specify under what conditions the talks could be held.

Lopez and Pacas gave individual statements and agreed that there are "bad predictions" for the presidential summit, adding that they "hope" the summit will result in agreements to achieve peace.

The two ministers and their host, Foreign Minister Rodrigo Madrigal, agreed that the UN Observers Group in Central America should have a "major role" in the regional peace process, particularly demanding that Nicaragua fulfill the pledges made during previous presidential summits.

According to the Salvadoran Government, the regional conflict would not have continued if Nicaragua had stopped receiving Soviet and Cuban aid.

UNO Delegation Travels to Summit

PA0912170389 Panama City ACAN in Spanish
1610 GMT 9 Dec 89

[Text] Managua, 9 Dec (ACAN-EFE)—A National Opposition Union (UNO) delegation from Nicaragua traveled today to San Jose, Costa Rica, to meet with the Central American presidents and tell them that in this country "there are no conditions for the development of truly free elections."

Luis Sachez, spokesman for the main Nicaraguan opposition alliance, informed ACAN-EFE today that the mission is led by Virgilio Godoy, UNO vice presidential candidate for the 25 February elections. Jaime Bonilla, of the negotiating commission, and Ivan Larios, of the international relations commission, are also part of the opposition bloc's delegation.

The opposition members will hand the area presidents, who will hold their sixth summit on 10-11 December, a document with photographs, statements, and notarized minutes "with evidence of the progress of the electoral process," the source added.

According to the opposition spokesman, UNO followers and leaders have been the target of "systematic attacks" in different parts of Nicaragua, carried out by "people linked to the Sandinist government."

On the summit's prospects, Sanchez said that it may contribute to "contain the worsening of the Central American crisis," but clarified that he does not expect the San Jose meeting to produce agreements that "reverse the worsening situation." " It seems to me that the San Jose meeting will only avoid a worsening of the crisis, but will not yield spectacular agreements toward peace," he stressed.

Ministers Exchange Charges

PA0912201489 Panama City ACAN in Spanish
1852 GMT 9 Dec 89

[Text] San Jose, 9 Dec (ACAN-EFE)—The Central American foreign ministers began a meeting today in Costa Rica to prepare for the Central American presidential summit that will start tomorrow, which has been preceded by very tough verbal clashes, especially between Nicaragua and El Salvador.

Salvadoran Foreign Minister Jose Pacas and Honduran Foreign Minister Carlos Lopez strongly criticized Nicaragua, which they accused of intervening in the Salvadoran conflict. Pacas said that "Nicaragua has no right to demand respect for human rights in El Salvador, when it is the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front (FMLN) that violates them with the support of Managua."

Nicaraguan Foreign Minister Miguel D'Escoto accused Costa Rica and Honduras of allowing the supply of arms to the Nicaraguan "contras" through their territory. "We have brought with us the evidence, we have always had it," D'Escoto said, denying that his government supplied arms to the Salvadoran guerrillas, especially the SAM-7 surface-to-air missiles.

D'Escoto also said there are indications that the ruling party in El Salvador, the Nationalist Republican Alliance (ARENA), has ties with "groups that oppose" the "Equipulas II" peace agreement.

Guatemalan Foreign Minister Ariel Rivera expressed concern" over the region's situation, and agreeing with his Honduran colleague, said he hoped that the summit serves to find paths to allow the reestablishment of a dialogue between Salvadorans and Nicaraguans.

Host Foreign Minister Rodrigo Madrigal said that this meeting should serve to "come to definite agreements that will allow the peace process to advance." Madrigal said that "it is the moment to work in earnest" for Central America,"which is going through the most difficult moments" of its history.

The area foreign ministers are preparing an agenda for the presidential summit that will take place on 10-11 December in San Jose. The topics for dicussion will be the demobilization of the Nicaraguan "contras" and El Salvador's internal conflict.

Costa Rica Drafts Proposal

PA0912235689 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 2219 GMT 9 Dec 89

[Text] San Jose, 9 Dec (DPA)—The Costa Rican Government will submit a regional peace proposal at the Central American summit, which opens in San Jose on 10 December.

The 11 points of the proposal are:

1. A Christmas truce in El Salvador from 12 December to 15 January will be requested. During this period the Salvadoran Government and the FMLN will unconditionally resume the dialogue to secure a cease-fire that will end the armed conflict, and also prepare a broad agenda for beginning the process of negotiation that will lead to the definitive solution of the conflict in that country. Site: Caracas, with the presence of the Catholic Church and the UN and OAS secretaries general, who will cooperate actively in securing an agreement between the parties.

2. The FMLN will be exhorted to immediately end its warring actions.

3. ONUCA [UN Observer Group in Central America] will be asked to verify, as soon as possible, the fulfillment of the truce mentioned in Point 1 and the definitive cease-fire. To this end, the presidents will ask the UN secretary general to go before the UN Security Council so ONUCA's mandate will be expanded in this sense.

4. The Salvadoran Government will commit itself to forming and installing the National Reconciliation Commission as soon as possible.

5. The five Central American governments will request that ONUCA inmmediately begin its work along the borders of El Salvador, Honduras, and Nicaragua, especially in the Gulf of Fonseca. On that point, the action of ONUCA must also involve on-the-spot verification of the Nicaraguan Government's fulfillment of the commitments in the Esquipulas II accord regarding the non-use of its territory to attack other states and the halt in aid to irregular groups and rebel movements.

6. The five presidents will commit themselves to ensure that, within 45 days, the foreign ministers will draft an agreement to regulate their relations and establish principles of peaceful coexistence among the Central American states.

7. The Nicaraguan Government and the Nicaraguan resistance will resume the dialogue as soon as possible to reach an agreement on the execution of the demobilization plan. While this dialogue is being held, the Nicaraguan resistance members will remain in Honduran territory under the vigilance and control of ONUCA, which must supervise the nature and humanitarian purpose of the aid to be received by the Nicaraguan resistance.

8. The Nicaraguan Government will commit itself to grant, as soon as possible, a general and unconditional amnesty, and will immediately proceed to suspend the Patriotic Military Service, as well as extend the deadline for electoral registration of the Nicaraguan resistance members who are voluntarily demobilized.

9. The Nicaraguan Government will commit itself to unilaterally effect a temporary cease-fire. A vehement appeal will be made to the Nicaraguan resistance to end its military actions.

10. The Honduran and Nicaraguan Governments will grant a 60-day extension to the suspension of the judicial suit at the International Court of Justice.

11. The presidents will charge the executive commission [not further specified] at its next regular meeting with the formation of groups of experts to identify and analyze the economic, social, and political problems that generate or spark violence in Central America, and thus prepare a regional program to fight and eradicate such problems.

Azcona Arrives, Criticizes Ortega

PA1012010489 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 2351 GMT 9 Dec 89

[Text] San Jose, 9 Dec (DPA)—Upon his arrival in Costa Rica to participate in tomorrow's Central American summit, Honduran President Jose Azcona Hoyo said that "it is unacceptable that on the eve of this summit President Daniel Ortega has reactivated the charge against Honduras before the International Court of Justice in The Hague [ICJ], a charge that had been frozen."

Azcona said that "everything seems to indicate that this is an Ortega strategy to distract attention at the summit, because he will be accused by the Salvadoran president of helping the Salvadoran guerrillas."

The Honduran president said that "Honduras has taken all the steps for the demobilization of the Nicaraguan Resistance (the contras), but Honduras will not, repeat, will not demoblize the RN with its Army because this is not Honduras' problem and our country will not, repeat, will not risk shedding Honduran blood for a problem that is not, repeat, not our problem."

Azcona added that "we are going backward in the Central American peace process. A few days ago in San Jose, we asked Ortega not to call off the cease-fire, but Mr. Ortega did not listen to us."

The Honduran president, who ends his term in office in a few weeks, said: "I was going to attend the summit as a mediator, but Nicaragua's decision to reactivate the charge against Honduras keeps us from being mediators."

Arias Calls for Honoring Agreements

PA1012015089 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 0024 GMT 10 Dec 89

[Text] San Jose, 9 Dec (DPA)—Costa Rican President Oscar Arias issued a statement tonight that says, "The five Central American presidents must honor the signatures we placed on the Central American peace plan on 7 August 1987."

Arias noted that "later we also signed documents in Costa Rica, El Salvador, and, most recently, in Honduras."

"At this meeting we will call to account those who have not honored these signatures," Arias stated.

Regarding the summit, which begins at 1000 tomorrow in the Inter-American Institute of Agriculture Sciences (IICA), President Arias was quite clear: "Central America is facing its most difficult moment in the past 3 years, because the offensive launched by the FMLN eliminated the political peace opening in the region."

"Our feelings are of sadness and pain at this time because it is a mistake to return to violence," Arias added.

Finally, he called for a "search through dialogue at this summit to resolve the delicate situation."

Guatemalan President Speaks to Press

PA1012014089 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 0034 GMT 10 Dec 89

[Text] San Jose, 9 Dec (DPA)—Guatemalan President Vinicio Cerezo spoke in San Jose today in favor of "rejecting violence in Central America as a means to achieve power."

Cerezo, who arrived in San Jose to participate in tomorrow's Central American summit, described as "an act of cruelty against the Salvadoran people, the latest offensive launched by the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front (FMLN) while the dialogue was still under way."

During a short news conference held at Juan Santamaria International Airport in San Jose, the Guatemalan president said that "we have to reject violence in Central America, and reject the armed support of one country for guerrilla groups that operate against another country."

Regarding the tension between Nicaragua and El Salvador, President Cerezo said that "it will be one of the issues we will analyze at tomorrow's summit because of the arms trafficking from Nicaragua to the FMLN."

In conclusion, Cerezo stressed that "we must fight to get the peace process back on the right track."

Tentative Agenda Approved

PA1012035489 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 0311 GMT 10 Dec 89

[Text] San Jose, 9 Dec (DPA)—The five Central American foreign ministers agreed on a tentative agenda this evening for the presidential summit that begins tomorrow at 1000 at the Inter-American Institute of Agricultural Sciences (IICA] in San Isidro de Coronado, 5 km from San Jose.

The agenda reads as follows:

1. The Salvadoran-Nicaraguan situation.

2. Evaluation of the Tela, Honduras agreements.

3. Demobilization of the Nicaraguan resistance (contras).

4. Nicaragua's charges presented at the International Court of Justice in The Hague against Honduras.

5. Definition of the mission of the UN Observer Group in Central America (ONUCA).

6. Other business.

The summit will be inaugurated during a private session of the five presidents. Following this there will be a 1-hour break for a light lunch, after which the meeting will be resumed until 1800.

Costa Rican President Oscar Arias will host a dinner for his colleagues at 2000, and on Monday the talks will resume at 0900 and end at 1200.

FMLN Statement Against Army

PA1012043089 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0307 GMT 10 Dec 89

[Text] San Jose, 9 Dec (ACAN-EFE)—Today the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front (FMLN) rebels accused the Salvadoran Army of having caused the violent deaths of more than 1,500 civilians through "repression" and "indiscriminate attacks" between 12 November and 4 December.

A document distributed by the rebels today in San Jose, on the eve of the Central American presidential summit that is to start tomorrow in Costa Rica, asserts that Salvadoran Armed Forces' actions caused the deaths of 1,544 civilians and led to the injuries of 4,297 more, along with the forced displacement of 75,000 people.

The FMLN's charges—for which it does not provide further information or sources—add that the Salvadoran Armed Forces' "indiscriminate repression" has motivated 85 executions and 479 arrests.

The Salvadoran Government and Armed Forces have accused the FMLN of causing the deaths of many civilians when it moved the combat zone to the populated San Salvador neighborhoods.

The document states that the command staff "orders raids" of organization and institution headquarters that have no part in the war, and also orders "searches of places and arrests of persons that are not part of the armed conflict."

According to the FMLN, the Salvadoran Army's actions violate "the basic rulings on the treatment of prisoners" and the agreement against torture and other international principles covering respect for human rights.

Salvadoran President Alfredo Cristiani arrived in San Jose today to participate in the regional summit. Cristiani will denounce Nicaraguan "interference" in the internal affairs of his country, because the Nicaraguan Government aids the FMLN.

Ortega Arrives in San Jose

PA1012160189 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1525 GMT 10 Dec 89

[Text] San Jose, 10 Dec (ACAN-EFE)—Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega arrived in Costa Rica today at 0830 (1430 GMT) to participate in the sixth Central American presidential summit that will examine the "contras'" demobilization and the serious situation in El Salvador.

Ortega, who arrived under strict security measures, was welcomed at "Juan Santamaria" International Airport by host President Oscar Arias, government sources who demanded anonymity confirmed to ACAN-EFE.

At the airport the national and international press were not allowed to cover the Nicaraguan president's arrival, and even government officials abstained from providing information, alleging "security measures."

Arriving in San Jose yesterday were Presidents Jose Azcona of Honduras, Vinicio Cerezo of Guatemala, and Alfredo Cristiani of El Salvador, whose government suspended relations with Nicaragua 15 days ago for sending weapons to the Salvadoran guerrillas, according to Salvadoran military sources.

It is expected that prior to the summit's inauguration, Ortega will hold a news conference at the summit headquarters in the town of Coronado, 15 km northeast of San Jose.

Central American Summit Begins in Costa Rica

Arias Inaugurates Summit

PA1012184589 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1755 GMT 10 Dec 89

[Text] San Jose, 10 Dec (ACAN-EFE)—Costa Rican President Oscar Arias inaugurated the sixth meeting of Central American presidents, which was called as an extraordinary meeting aimed at stemming war and violence in the area, in San Jose today.

Arias declared the summit inaugurated at 1135 (1735 GMT) at an institute supported by the OAS, not far from the Costa Rican capital.

The meeting began amid the pessimism of most of the participants and amid heightened international expectations prompted by the worsening of violence in El Salvador, which in the past 4 weeks has resulted in over 2,000 deaths.

Participating in the summit, scheduled to end on 11 December, are Presidents Vinicio Cerezo (Guatemala), Jose Azcona (Honduras), Alfredo Cristiani (El Salvador), Daniel Ortega (Nicaragua), and the host, Oscar Arias.

In keeping with the agenda prepared on 9 December by the foreign ministers, the presidents will examine the "contras'" demobilization, the worsening of El Salvador's internal war, and the suspension of diplomatic relations between El Salvador and Nicaragua.

U.S., Soviet Role in Talks Accepted

PA1012221489 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 2032 GMT 10 Dec 89

[Text] San Jose, 10 Dec (DPA)—The five Central American presidents have expressed their agreement in principle with a proposal presented by Costa Rican President Oscar Arias calling for the United States and the USSR to actively participate in the Central American dialogue that seeks to bring peace to Central America.

The presidents welcomed the Costa Rican proposal. The modus operandi of the two great superpowers' participation would be as follows:

1. U.S. and Soviet delegates would participate in an upcoming meeting between the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front (FMLN) and the Salvadoran Government.

2. U.S. and Soviet delegates would participate in a future meeting between the Nicaraguan Resistance [RN] (contras) and the Nicaraguan Government.

The five presidents agreed that the two great superpowers must assume an active role in future regional peace talks.

In so doing, the presidents have tacitly admitted that the USSR and United States are directly responsible for instability in Central America and will therefore urge their two governments to agree to send delegates to future meetings involving the RN (contras) and FMLN.

A meeting involving delegates of the FMLN, Salvadoran Government, United States, and USSR would take place within 10 days in Caracas, Venezuela.

A meeting involving delegates of the RN, Nicaraguan Government, United States, and USSR would take place within 8 days in Mexico.

Ortega Demands Contra Demobilization

PA1012220689 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 2137 GMT 10 Dec 89

[Text] San Jose, 10 Dec (DPA)—Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega demanded today at the Central American presidential summit that the Nicaraguan resistance (the "contras") be demobilized immediately.

Ortega told his Central American colleagues that the agreement at the last summit, held in Tela, Honduras, categorically stated that Honduras should proceed with the demobilization.

Ortega explained before his colleagues that the "contras" should have been demobilized by 5 December and that the Honduran Government did not implement the demobilization.

Honduran President Jose Azcona answered Ortega saying that Honduras as a country does not have the obligation of the demobilization, which should be carried out by special forces of the UN organization (ONUCA) and not by Honduras.

Azcona stated at the meeting that Honduras will not sacrifice one soldier of its Armed Forces to carry out the demobilization.

At the same time, Azcona protested before the presidents over Nicaragua's attitude in reinstating the suit against Honduras with the International Court of Justice at the Hague on the eve of this summit.

Ortega replied by stating that the reinstatement had been automatic because the Tela agreements had specified that the charges at The Hague would be suspended pending the demobilization of the contras, and, since the demobilization did not take place, the charges were automatically reinstated.

Cristiani Says Ortega Arms FMLN

PA1112002789 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 2219 GMT 10 Dec 89

[Text] San Jose, 10 December (DPA)—Salvadoran President Alfredo Cristiani placed his finger on a sore this afternoon when he accused Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega of furnishing weapons to the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front (FMLN).

Cristiani presented his Central American colleagues—meeting at the Inter-American Institute of Agricultural Sciences in San Isidro de Coronado, near San Jose, Costa Rica—with additional documentation to back his statements, and added that "there are no doubts whatsoever that the Soviet Union supports the FMLN, a group that does not have the support of the Salvadoran people, through Cuba and Nicaragua."

Cristiani was categorical about Nicaraguan aid to the FMLN and noted that "without this aid the group would not exist, because Salvadorans do not, I repeat, do not support it, and this was demonstrated in the FMLN's last offensive in El Salvador's urban area."

Cristiani told his colleagues that he came to the summit with a conciliatory spirit but that he could not keep such a major truth from the world, as there is evidence that Nicaragua aids the FMLN in everything.

Cristiani then noted that President Ortega's attitude violates all the Esquipulas II principles, as well as other agreements previously signed by the Central American presidents.

Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega refuted all of Cristiani's charges at the meeting and said that "the FMLN is the Salvadoran people's nationalist recovery movement and it has my solidarity."

Ortega added: "But the FMLN does not need Nicaraguan support because it is supported within Salvadoran territory." He also said that "the United States is the one that supports Cristiani's government and supplies it with sophisticated weapons."

Ortega noted that "the FMLN is an exemplary movement that works to attain the best for the Salvadoran people." After that, Ortega made reference to the constant international censures that are made against the Salvadoran Government for its human rights violations.

Costa Rican President Oscar Arias interceded to lighten the atmosphere and asked the presidents to calm down. Guatemalan President Vinicio Cerezo did likewise.

The presidents ended their first round of talks a few minutes after noon. They then went to a small room and had a light lunch consisting of heart of palm salad, rice, and chicken, along with light refreshments.

The first round of the Central American presidential summit lasted 2 hours and 30 minutes.

FMLN Letter to Presidents

PA1112042789 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 0013 GMT 11 Dec 89

["Text" of letter by the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front, FMLN, dated 8 December and addressed to the Central American presidents—delivered by Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega in San Jose, Costa Rica, on 10 December]

[Text] Messrs Presidents of the Central American nations: We consider it opportune and urgent to avail ourselves of the special summit of Central American presidents to explain to you our opinion concerning the course of events in El Salvador and our willingness to find a rapid solution to the crisis. The FMLN attended the Mexico and San Jose meetings with a willingness to initiate definite negotiations to put an end to the war through agreements for a true democratization, the demilitarization of society, and the modernization of the economic system.

Our proposals made it possible for everyone involved in the conflict to adopt more flexible stands so we could make progress for a negotiated solution. However, so far we have found closed attitudes that forced the FMLN to launch the offensive, seeking to clearly explain the true situation and transfer it to the table and thus make way for definite negotiations.

The U.S. and Salvadoran Governments had assumed that the FMLN was weakening and becoming isolated in the international field. Consequently, they chose to hold talks without any negotiations, buying time until they could have an enemy willing to accept their offer, which was equivalent to surrender. The FMLN offensive as of 11 November has broken that premise. The government was set on weakening the FMLN by expanding the war and escalating repression to dismantle all forms of political opposition. We could not continue to favor the treacherous image of the government that pretended to be moderate. We could not continue to seek a dialogue while repression continued to cause more victims in procedures that were increasingly more brutal, such as the mass murder of the FENASTRAS [Salvadoran Workers National Union Federation] leaders.

The FMLN offensive has revealed the truth. The genocidal bombings of the residents of the San Salvador, Zacatecoluca, Usulutan, and San Miguel neighborhoods; the murder of six Jesuit priests; the persecution against all churches; the total clampdown on all types of expression and organization; and the persecution of leaders and members of the opposition parties and of the social organizations dramatically show that there are still deep internal reasons for 10 years of war: the lack of a democratic process, and the truth that absolute power rests in the hands of the most stubborn military chiefs who want to impose the extension of their dictatorship while drowning the aspirations of the Salvadoran people in blood.

This situation does not just demand a cease-fire. The repression must immediately come to a halt, and there must be guarantees to respect human rights and democratic freedom. We maintain our willingness to work for a negotiated solution that will result in the true democratization and the demilitarization of society through a national consensus that will assure the reconciliation of the nation, according to Esquipulas II.

We hope the Central American presidents will contribute toward halting the shooting with full guarantees for human rights and international verification, and with the immediate opening of true and definitive negotiations in El Salvador. We will now point out our stands, which we hope you will take into consideration.

A. We hereby voice our willingness that there be an immediate in situ cease-fire with international supervision and overall and definitive simultaneous negotiations leading to a national consensus based on democratization, demilitarization of society, and respect for the rights of Salvadorans.

B. To hold good negotiations, we feel it is necessary to establish immediate guarantees for the respect of human rights, democratic freedoms, and political and social groups through:

1. Lifting of the state of siege and repeal of the law on reform of the Penal Codes, also known as the antiterrorist law, that was recently approved by the Legislative Assembly.

2. Release of all political prisoners.

3. Allowing the departure of FMLN war disabled, and medical treatment of FMLN wounded.

4. Immediate dismissal of the following commanders and officers: Colonel Rene Emilio Ponce, chairman of the Joints Chiefs of Staff, for his responsibility in decisions made by the Armed Forces High Command to carry out indiscriminate bombings against the civilian population and the assassination of the six Jesuit priests; General Rafael Bustillos, General Rafael Antonio Villamariona, and Lieutenant Colonel Juan Antonio Martinez Varela, commander and executive officers of the Air Force, for their direct responsibility in the bombings of the civilian population; Colonel Orlando Zepeda, deputy defense minister, for having signed the order to assassinate the six Jesuit priests; Colonel Heriberto Hernandez, director of the Treasury Police, which is the corps that carried out the murders; and Captain Alfonso Chavez Garcia, who was the direct perpetrator of these murders. All of these dismissals are needed for the credibility and effectiveness of the decision to establish guarantees for the respect for human rights and as a first step in the purge of the Salvadoran Armed Forces, which is necessary for the dismantling of the bloody military dictatorship of the past 60 years.

5. The in situ verification of the respect for human rights must be carried out by the Inter-American Human Rights Commission and the UN work team on the forced disappearances.

C. We think it is indispensable to reorganize the negotiating table to ensure that opposition political parties and social groups are able to fully participate along with the government and the FMLN. This will assure a national consensus solution.

Messrs Presidents: The scope of war in our country demands realistic viewpoints, and viable and urgent solutions. You can contribute so the negotiations will prevail over war, and the Central American peace process will yield specific results.

We reiterate our appreciation of your contributions,

[Signed] The FMLN General Command, El Salvador, 8 December 1989.

D'Escoto Statement on Summit

PA1112033889 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 0054 GMT 11 Dec 89

[Statement by Nicaraguan Foreign Minister Miguel D'Escoto Brockman before reporters at the conference hall of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture in San Jose, Costa Rica—live]

[Text] I came because I was told that our reporter friends were greatly interested in knowing what is happening. I understand that attitude because I worked as a reporter for many years. I also understand your need to transmit information to our Central American people, who are so interested in the success of this Central American presidents' summit, and to the rest of the international public, who are interested that progress is being made toward a final peace in Central America.

Yesterday evening, the foreign ministers agreed not to speak to the press individually. We appointed Costa Rican Foreign Minister Rodrigo Madrigal Nieto as our spokesman. He said what we had agreed to say at that time. In fact, there is not much more to report now. Foreign Minister Madrigal Nieto told you yesterday that the foreign ministers had basically devoted their time to examining three topics. We also had two more topics, but in all there were three topics examined. I think he mentioned the contras' demobilization, the internal situation in El Salvador, and a third topic, but right now I do not dare say what it was, lest I make a mistake.

[Unidentified speaker, interrupting] ONUCA.

[D'Escoto] He mentioned ONUCA. That is correct. In fact, we discussed five topics, but if he said...[changes thought] ONUCA was one of them. So we have demobilization, the situation in El Salvador, and ONUCA. The Central American presidents devoted their time to these three topics.

This was not so easy. Some say the thing to do is to clearly and categorically condemn the FMLN for...[changes thought] and to describe it as a terrorist group. Others say: Let us condemn terrorism in general, and also anyone who uses it. Some attach a great deal of importance to what international organizations specializing in defending and promoting respect for human rights say, namely organizations like Amnesty International, Americas Watch, the Geneva-based International League of Jurists, the OAS Inter-American Committee on Human Rights, the UN Human Rights Commission, the UN task force on forced disappearances, and the International Relations Catholic Institute in London, England. All these organizations, which undoubtedly from the Nicaraguan standpoint deserve respect and credibility, indicate matters are not simply black and white.

We even have the most recent letter or report of America's Watch, an organization that enjoys our respect. It includes what we could call a condemnation of the U.S. Government for trying to [words indistinct] Nicaragua to forget all this and simply satisfy the understandable wish of a government that only the revolutionary forces be condemned. That is one of the aspects that has occupied our time.

As for the contras' demobilization, it is evident that the Tela meeting clearly and categorically established a deadline for the contras to be demobilized no later than 90 days after the installation of CIAV, that is, the International Support and Verification Commission, which is tasked with overseeing compliance with the joint demobilization plan.

This means that 5 December was the deadline for demobilization. This was not complied with. We have discussed this issue again. Nicaragua maintains that commitments must be complied with, and they have not been complied with in this case. In this regard, in an attempt to encourage Honduras to comply, we had committed ourselves to ask the International Court of Justice to extend the deadline that it had established for us to submit a report containing the bases of a judicial suit that Nicaragua had filed against Honduras.

The court had asked us to submit all the documents on 19 September. However, at the Tela meeting on 7 August, we committed ourselves to ask the Court for an extension to allow the implementation of this joint plan that should have ended on 5 December. We even committed ourselves to withdraw our suit against Honduras if that country would comply with their part of the agreement.

Therefore, we said that if we confirmed their compliance on 5 December, we would withdraw our suit. Otherwise, we would have to comply with the new deadline established by the court to submit our report. We had no other option. However, not only did they fail to comply, but nothing was done concerning demobilization.

The [UN and OAS] secretaries general had said at the beginning that we should take into account that the period was too short, because the complete joint demobilization plan includes two main phases. First, there is the demobilization per se, which means the demilitarization and dismantling of those bases in Honduras. Contra disarmament is one phase. Second, there is the voluntary repatriation of the contras, or the relocation of those contra members who do not wish to return to Nicaragua and would be relocated elsewhere. That is the joint plan.

The secretaries general said that perhaps the complete plan would not be complied with; in other words, that finding third countries might require a little more time and that the repatriation would perhaps not be fully complied with. However, the deadline has expired and nothing has been started in the first phase of demobilization. Nothing has been done.

There are people who want us to forget the suit. We reached that agreement as a [word indistinct] encouragement for Honduras to keep the commitment it had made. However, Honduras has never complied with its commitment. Thus, it is totally unacceptable for us to forget the suit.

Regarding ONUCA, we firmly believe in the sovereignty and legal equality of every state. We cannot make commitments that are only applicable to some, but not to others. That is why we insist in [word indistinct] a demobilization deadline. The commitment made on demobilization has to be implemented immediately. We cannot continue to give new deadlines for demobilization. They are interpreted as licenses, as permits to continue violating the law with impunity. We cannot accept this, especially when what is seen is a history of flagrant disregard for legal norms and commitments made.

Regarding ONUCA, we recall that ONUCA was initially proposed by Nicaragua, and that El Salvador and Honduras were against this proposal for many years. You remember the whole story, so I will not expand on it here. Now the proposal has finally been accepted, but our position [word indistinct] on firm bases. Demobilization has to be implemented, and then ONUCA will immediately start to operate in Nicaragua. But first the demobilization has to be implemented. We are not going to continue the pattern—that we are the only ones complying with the commitments made, and the rest do nothing.

All of you know the situation regarding compliance with verification. At the Alajuela summit held here in Costa Rica, the so-called International Commission of Support and Verification, CIAV, that had been formed by the regional presidents in Guatemala, rendered a report. This commission is formed by the UN and OAS secretaries general, the Group of Eight's foreign ministers, and Contadora and Support Group members. It so happened that the report rendered by this commission irritated the other [Central American presidents] a great deal. Thus, it was simply dropped. Nicaragua had no problem with this report; it was a good x-ray analysis of what was occurring in Nicaragua. However, we noticed that several Central American brothers not only did not accept the report, but, at a later date, have still not accepted to be subjected to verification. They are terrified that we will officially propose, for example, that the Inter-American Human Rights Commission make an individual report of the civil, political, economic, social, and cultural situation in our countries.

Nicaragua continues to believe that it is important to have objective input, and that reports of this nature would enable the executive commission [not further specified] to study...[changes thought] We were told in Alajuela to select organizations of proven neutrality and ability to carry out the verification task. This was what was said in Alajuela. But although Alajuela was such a long time ago, we have still not reached an agreement on this. The reason for this is that the Inter-American Committee is not just, or is not good, or whatever. The UN group is not acceptable either, Americas Watch much less, and Amnesty International cannot even be mentioned, nor the Institute of [word indistinct]. None of these organizations are acceptable. Thus, self-verification is opposed in different ways, and by some parties more than others. Nicaragua will continue to defend the proposal that verifiation mechanisms must conform with the guidelines received in Alajuela.

Well, these are the subjects that have been discussed. These are the topics on which we hope some agreement will be reached. We also think it is very important—and Nicaragua will present this topic once again—not to forget number seven of the Esquipulas agreement. We brought this up at the foreign ministers' meeting, but there was no communique issued at the end of the meeting. Number seven of Esquipulas talks about the need to address a serious problem in all Third World countries, and particularly in our countries. It has to do with the level of military development that often constitutes one of the main drains on our very scarce resources, which should be devoted to the development of our countries.

You will recall we reached an agreement. Esquipulas says that we should reach an agreement about a reasonable balance of forces, with the participation of the Contadora Group in its capacity as mediator. Since Esquipulas was signed there has only been one meeting. That meeting was held on 10 December of that same year, 1987. The Esquipulas agreement was signed on 7 August 1987. One meeting was held in December of that same year to comply with seeking a limit to military development. That was a very ambitious plan that even seeks disarmament, going through various stages that imply, first of all, absolutely no foreign military presence and absolutely no military maneuvers with armies from outside the region. About the advisers—well, you remember all that.

Now Nicaragua has proposed we resume this in a systematic manner, and that we establish a 1-year deadline for reaching that agreement. The first meeting should be held in mid-January. We are also going to request that the executive commission entrust the specific work commissions to prepare specific points to be discussed at the next summit.

This is somewhat general, somewhat vague, but I did not want to miss this opportunity to be in contact with you. I believe I am not breaking any confidential information. You have a right to know about these things that are being discussed in an atmosphere that is frank and very respectful. I would also say that everyone is evidently very enthusiastic about seeking solutions to the topics that are being discussed by the Central American presidents.

This is what I have to say. I do not know if this will be of any use to you, but I wanted you to know that we continue to work intensely, and these are the basic points discussed by our Central American presidents. This has been an informal statement. I have not been delegated by anyone to come to speak on their behalf. I am doing this on a personal basis, trying to cooperate with the press so you will know what is happening.

Salvadoran Minister Rejects Truce

PA1112043489 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0242 GMT 11 Dec 89

[Text] San Jose, 10 Dec (ACAN - EFE)—Salvadoran Defense Minister General Rafael Larios today rejected the Christmas truce proposed by some countries at the presidential summit, and demanded that the guerrillas end hostilities as a prior condition for the dialogue to be resumed.

The minister, who always labeled the rebels "terrorists," said that this "is not the time for truces, because it has been demonstrated that they do not work." Costa Rica proposed a "Christmas truce" today between the Salvadoran Army and guerrillas to alleviate the existing tension in the area in the wake of the heightened fighting in El Salvador, which has left 2,000 dead in the past month.

Larios, however, agreed that the dialogue "can begin" without the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front (FMLN) turning over its weapons beforehand. "The guerrillas do not necessarily have to turn over their weapons for the dialogue to begin," Larios stated.

The Salvadoran general denied that the FMLN can establish itself in certain "territories" while the negotiations are held. "The FMLN terrorists are not in any specific place," Larios stated, and then noted that the guerrillas will receive "guarantees" for their safety if they end hostilities and begin negotiations "to rejoin political life."

Larios rejected FMLN charges against ranking military officers, who it accused of masterminding the killing of the six Jesuits, five of whom were Spaniards, and two women.

'Specialists' Determine SAM's Not Soviet Type

PA1012195589 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1813 GMT 10 Dec 89

[Report by (Vari Mejia) and Luis Cabrera from San Jose, Costa Rica]

[Text] This is a last minute report concerning the alleged Soviet surface-to-air missiles in El Salvador.

Central American military specialists have determined that the missiles shown by El Salvador at the United Nations and the OAS are not Soviet missiles of the 12-M [doce M] or SAM-7 type. The Soviet missiles are 12-M or SAM-7, and the ones shown at the OAS and the United Nations [word indistinct] Colonel Avilez do not correspond to the 12-M. They are not Soviet missiles. This is what has been found out.

In addition, Nicaragua has not delivered any type of missile. The Nicaraguan arsenals are composed of armaments that people already know about. Military analysts feel that the missiles are not Nicaraguan. According to current comments, this is not a Soviet missile and analysts cannot understand how Salvadoran intelligence could make the mistake of showing missiles and calling them Soviet, when they were not of the Soviet type or Soviet-made.

According to the analyses, La Tandona [name given to 1966 graduates of Captain Gerardo Barrios Military Academy] of El Salvador tried to justify its military blunders by claiming a Soviet link, which is totally false.

Mexico To Enforce 'Aggressive' Commercial Policy

PY0812194889 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0141 GMT 7 Dec 89

[Text] Lima, 6 Dec (EFE)—Mexican Foreign Minister Fernando Solano said here today that Mexico will enforce an aggressive commercial policy in Latin America to improve its balance of payments. Mexican trade with the region now accounts for 3.4 percent of Mexico's total trade.

Mexico's annual import and export operations amount to $45 billion, Solano added.

Solano, who stopped in Lima on his way from Buenos Aires, where he attended a meeting of the foreign ministers of the Group of Eight, said that Mexico will change its commercial policy in the region "to improve the socioeconomic level of its people."

He added that his country has begun talks with Colombia and Venezuela for the purpose of designing joint investment projects, "although this will not go beyond the framework of ALADI [Latin American Integration Association]."

In a conversation with the press, the minister announced that there will be another meeting of the foreign ministers of the Group of Eight (Venezuela, Colombia, Argentina, Uruguay, Peru, Mexico, Brazil, and Panama, which has been temporarily suspended because of its political situation) to address the promotion of exports through air and maritime routes.

In response to a question, Solano said that "we Central Americans want peace in our region." He added that Central America "wants peace, respect for its sovereignty, respect for democracy, and an economic recovery that could let it live a decent life."

Cuba

'Yankee Authorities' Responsible for Gunshots

FL0812140789 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 8 Dec 89

[Note issued by the Revolutionary Armed Forces, FAR: "Two Shots Fired From the Occupied Territory Against Sentry Boxes 17 and 18, Respectively, of the Border Brigade"]

[Text] Today, 7 December 1989, while our people throughout the country were honoring the combatants and internationalists who fell in brother countries, two provocations took place from the illegally occupied territory by the United States against sentry boxes 17 and 18, respectively, of the FAR Border Brigade that guards the sovereignty and territorial integrity of our country at the perimeter of the Yankee naval base in Guantanamo. [Video shows map with location of Cuban sentry posts 17 and 18 and of U.S. post 13]

At 1000, a shot was fired against post 17—breaking the window of the sentry box. Based on the location of post 17 and the direction of the shot, it is calculated that it was fired from the vicinity of the American post 13. Furthermore, at 1300, another shot was fired against post 18, breaking the front window of the sentry box. Based on the direction of the shot, it is calculated that it was also fired from the area of the American post 13.

The Ministry of the FAR is fulfilling its duty of informing our people, the public, and the international community. The last provocation similar to this one occurred over 2 years ago, on 21 August 1987, when a shot was fired from the American post 18 against our observation post 76.

It is not by chance that these vulgar and dangerous provocations of Yankee soldiering have occurred today, when revolutionary fervor and devotion for the example of those who fell in internationalist missions clearly anger the U.S. military, which is confined to the redoubt that they illegally occupy in Guantanamo. These actions are even more serious, with unforeseen consequences, because the two shots hit the Cuban sentry boxes, thus they could have injured and even killed any of our soldiers on guard duty.

The Yankee authorities of the Guantanamo Naval Base are fully responsible for these provocations. Ministry of the FAR.

Caimaneras Residents Protest 'Yankee Aggressions'

FL0812150889 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 8 Dec 89

[Text] The residents of Caimaneras gathered last night at Martinez Park in an act repudiating the recent Yankee aggressions from the Guantanamo Naval Base against our posts.

In a rally that included the presence of Raul Michel Vargas, first party secretary in Guantanamo, the residents of Caimaneras protested the vile aggression carried out from the illegally occupied Cuban territory. Each of the speeches reaffirmed that the anti-imperialist trench, located 90 miles from the Yankee coast, will be a bastion that will not allow itself to be intimidated, and will only take orders and follow orders from our Commander in Chief Fidel Castro.

Sniper Blamed for Guantanamo Shooting Incident

FL0912134289 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 1206 GMT 9 Dec 89

[Text] While touring sentry posts 17 and 18 at the border of Guantanamo base—the portion of Cuban territory occupied by the United States—national and foreign journalists learned that shots were fired from the eastern sector by a sniper.

Colonel Jose Solar Hernandez, chief of the Guantanamo Frontier Brigade, reiterated that our soldiers are disciplined and maintain a firm, brave, and calm position in view of the Yankee marines' provocations. Lieutenant Luis Rodriguez Fabian, Private Roberto Arzagua, and two other comrades, who were changing guard duties at post 17 when the shot was fired, gave details of the attack and expressed their willingness to remain calm and avoid a serious conflict.

After the attack that day, a white van picked up an individual from the location where it is believed the shots were fired.

Justice Minister Repudiates U.S. 'Provocation'

FL0912004089 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 9 Dec 89

[Text] Juan Escalona Reguera, member of the Communist Party of Cuba Central Committee and minister of justice, today expressed his strongest repudiation of the provocation that took place yesterday at the Guantanamo Naval Base against the border guard combatants. He added that the situation is even more aggravating because it happened twice right on the day in which the Cuban people were burying their sons fallen while fulfilling the sacred internationalist duty in Africa and other countries of the world. He noted that [words indistinct] vile action to provoke the people in the midst of their emotional state because of the funerals. However, he said: We will not lose our nerve because of these despicable acts against the fatherland.

Guantanamo Border Chief Describes Incident

FL0912174289 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1420 GMT 9 Dec 89

[Interview with Colonel Jose Solar Hernandez, chief of the Guantanamo Frontier Brigade, by reporter Rosamaria Fernandez in Guantanamo on 8 December—recorded]

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] [Fernandez] Col Solar Hernandez will now give us a detailed briefing on the aggression that occurred on 7 December.

[Solar Hernandez] First, I would like to describe the location of the Yankee naval base here in the bay of Guantanamo in relation to the City of Guantanamo. [Video shows Solar pointing to wall map] We are east of the City of Guantanamo. The naval base is directly south, 20 km from Guantanamo. As you can see, the U.S. base is located at the entrance to the bay, as well as at the eastern and western portion of the bay's entrance.

[Fernandez] Where did the provocations occur?

[Solar Hernandez] The provocations occurred [words indistinct].

[Fernandez] What happened?

[Solar Hernandez] Yesterday morning, at 1000 on 7 December, a shot was fired at the upper part of post 17. The shot broke the side window of the observation tower. We determined from the angle at which the shot entered that it came approximately 800 to 1,000 meters south of U.S. post 13—we call it conventional post 13. It came from approximately that direction.

At 1300, another shot was fired at the upper section of post 18, breaking the front window of the tower. When we verified the angle of the shot, it was determined that it came from the same area as the shot fired at post 17. In other words, it was also fired from south of U.S. post 13. We feel, based on preliminary investigations, that both shots came from the same place. At 1320 or 1325, we saw a van that came from this area here [Video shows Solar circling spot on map with a pointer], which is their land entrance, the old land entrance. Approximately here, where the angle of the two shots was determined, this white van, which appears to belong to the Navy base's intelligence service, picked someone up and went into the Navy base.

[Fernandez] What is the distance between the two Cuban sentry boxes and the U.S. post?

[Solar Hernandez] Post 17 is 1,800 to 2,000 meters from the U.S. post while post 18 is 1,800 meters away.

[Fernandez] Does it appear to be the work of a sniper?

[Solar Hernandez] We feel that a special sniper rifle was used to make such a precise shot and to reach that distance.

[Fernandez] This obviously put the lives of our soldiers at risk.

[Solar Hernandez] When these shots were fired, an officer and three soldiers were inside this tower. They were changing guards. The bullet passed very close, very close [repeats himself] to the officer who was in the tower. A soldier was also in the upper part of the tower at the other post. He could also have been hit by the shot.

[Fernandez] How have the Cuban soldiers responded to his aggression?

[Solar Hernandez] Our soldiers' response, in accordance with the training they received, has been very good. They have reacted calmly, firmly, and bravely. [passage omitted on remarks by unidentified Cuban soldier]

[Solar Hernandez] We are consciously not allowing ourselves to be affected by any provocation from inside the naval base.

[Fernandez] What are the most recent provocations, colonel?

[Solar Hernandez] The U.S. base also violated our airspace yesterday morning here in this area with a (TA-4) plane. [points to spot on map] In 1987, they also shot at our post 76. This year we have also heard shots from U.S. post 3 [as heard]. We have also heard shots from posts 8 and 3. These are conventional posts, as I said before. The soldiers at these conventional posts have also made offensive remarks and yelled obscenities this year. [passage omitted]

Pentagon Statement on Incident 'Cynical'

FL0912193789 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 9 Dec 89

[Station commentary]

[Text] The first paragraph of a report from the Spanish news agency, EFE, with a dateline of 8 December and released in Washington, read textually: The Pentagon today denied that U.S. soldiers at the Guantanamo Naval Base, east of Cuba, shot at two Cuban sentry posts, as was claimed by the government of President Fidel Castro.

First of all, a small but important correction must be made. The Guantanamo Naval Base is not east of Cuba. It is in the eastern part of Cuba. It is a piece of Cuban territory that is illegally occupied by the United States.

The Pentagon's statement cannot be more cynical or shameless. Where did the shots come from? Did they come from the moon? The foreign press accredited in Cuba verified the events that occurred and also spoke with one of the Cuban soldiers that was almost hit by the shot fired at guard post 17.

Evidently, the Pentagon—if it did not know of this provocation beforehand—did not even bother to investigate the matter. Its quick statement was clearly a carbon copy of the version given to Washington by U.S. authorities at the naval base. However, since the denial is so flimsy, the Pentagon is attempting to imply that the event was just a coincidence, saying that military exercises were taking place in the area. The Pentagon added, however, that no one shot at any Cuban.

The statement issued by the Revolutionary Armed Forces also did not say that anyone shot at any Cuban. It said that the shots were fired at sentry boxes 17 and 18 at the perimeter of the base.

In view of the history of events at the base, because of the significance of the day for the Cuban people, and perhaps because of other reasons, Cuba adheres to its first statement that it in no way considers these vulgar and dangerous provocations to be a coincidence, and it holds the Yankee authorities at the Guantanamo Naval base responsible for these actions. The events are now known by our people and by international public opinion.

Officials Comment on Shooting Incident

FL0912163589 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1450 GMT 9 Dec 89

[Interview with Armando Hart Davalos, member of the Politburo of the Communist Party of Cuba and culture minister; Abel Prieto, president of the National Union of Cuban Writers and Artists; Conrado Martinez, president of the National Institute for Sports, Physical Education, and Recreation; Adolfo Diaz, vice president of the Council of Ministers; and Ricardo Cabrisas, foreign trade minister; by Holguin reporter Ricardo Gual on the occasion of the 7 December shooting incident at the Guantanamo Naval Base border and on the speech by President Fidel Castro honoring fallen internationalists; place and date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Gual] Minister, what do you think of the speech given by our commander in chief?

[Hart] I think that all of Comrade Fidel's speeches are very interesting. Some speeches are exceptionally interesting, and this is one of the most important speeches given by Comrade Fidel. Someone was telling me yesterday that it was like a third Havana Declaration. I think that the speech marks a very profound stage in the development of the revolution.

[Gual] What is the response of the people to the vile aggression of the U.S. imperialists on our borders?

[Hart] Our people have responded. A rally was held in Caimanera to express the people's indignation at this act, which is truly criminal, especially at a time like this, at a time of pain, a time of tribute. We have never even wished this kind of thing, this kind of provocation, on the enemy during an event such as this. The people have been expressing their indignation, their pain, and infinite affection, but with the same conviction of our [words indistinct] forces throughout the country.

[Prieto] I think that the response of all our writers and artists is not very different from the people's response. We are part of the people. We share the same opinion as our comrades. This act of aggression took place yesterday, on the very day we were burying our heroes and marking the anniversary of the death of Antonio Maceo y Grajales. It was a fundamental transgression of our rights, our principles. I think that we have to respond strongly and firmly to this.

[Martinez] Our response is one of unconditional support, of a willingness to continue at any cost with our socialist revolution, confront difficulties, and continue in the sports area with new victories.

[Diaz] I think the response was made by our commander in chief when he said that we will maintain our country, if necessary, with the banners of Marxism-Leninism, with the banners of struggle, and we will not give in to any kind of U.S. imperialist aggression. We will not retreat a single step and [words indistinct]. If there is only one country, or few countries, left to defend Marxism-Leninism, it will be our country.

[Cabrisas, in progress] ...especially when he mentioned the U.S. imperialists' efforts to try and turn our relations with traditional countries, socialist countries, into relations of unequal trade. We think that the best values of those societies will prevail against this position, and we will be able to preserve the relations that up to now have been examples of relations between countries with different levels of economic development.

U.S. Bid To Topple Cuban Socialism Viewed

PA0912041189 Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 1 Dec 89

["Point of View" feature; read by Roberto Morejon]

[Text] The United States has been working to bring about an internal collapse of the socialist system in Cuba and is engaged in a campaign to isolate the revolution to achieve this purpose.

To begin with, the United States is trying to depict the Cuban Goverment as an authority that is impervious to change because of Havana's decision to build socialism according to its own views, which do not necessarily have to coincide with the reforms taking place in several Eastern European nations.

Next, we would point out that there is marked interest on the part of George Bush's administration to orchestrate a systematic propaganda campaign about alleged human rights violations in Cuba.

For example, part of this effort is the disproportionate attention Washington and the U.S. media have devoted to a trial held in Havana against counterrevolutionaries sentenced to serve time in prison for releasing false reports to the foreign media to discredit the state. Also, Washington shows an increasing interest in the case of a man, Alfredo Montelier, sentenced to prison for crimes against state security and the murder of an individual.

As Oscar Oramas, Cuban ambassador to the United Nations, said recently, 3 years ago the United States transferred the political disagreement with Cuba to the

Commission of the Highest World Human Rights Organization, based in Geneva. In an attempt to condemn Cuba, the U.S. Administration failed to have a motion against the Cuban authorities approved. This failure took place simply because the international community knows that no personal rights violations are committed in our country. In addition, there are no murders and no one is reported missing or tortured. No unions are intimidated and no one is arbitrarily deprived of freedom, as happens in El Salvador, for example. In this Central American country, docilely subordinate to the United States, defenseless towns are being bombed and the regime's forces murder Jesuit priests.

Washington sees human rights violations where there are none. Its numerous advisers in El Salvador, however, could confirm arbitrary actions that would prove embarrassing to the official U.S. stance.

U.S. Rejection of Soviet Proposal Reported

FL0912025989 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 0234 GMT 9 Dec 89

[Text] The U.S. Department of State has rejected a proposal made by Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze to stop weapons shipments and reduce military capabilities in Central America. Richard Boucher, spokesman for the U.S. Department of State, stated that his country is not interested in something that would place U.S. and USSR budgets pertaining to security interests in Central America at the same level.

During a meeting held by Shevardnadze with the White House spokesman [as heard], the Soviet foreign minister noted that his government stopped supplying weapons to that area last year, but in spite of this, the United States has not complied with the timetable for dismantling the Nicaraguan contras quartered in Honduras. Boucher said those proposals were always rejected by his government and that one of the main points of friction at the Malta summit was, precisely, the Central American situation.

Summit Warning to 'Stubborn' U.S. Policy

PA1012033689 Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 10 Dec 89

["Our America" commentary; read by Fernando Alcorta]

[Text] The extraordinary meeting of Central American presidents to be held over the weekend in San Jose, Costa Rica, affords a new opportunity to try mutual understanding for the sake of a much desired peace. It can also serve as a warning to the Bush administration of how deathly his stubborn policy in the region may be. Insisting on the need to bring peace to Central America so that the people can undertake the task of development is not simply rhetoric. However, those plans will always be held back as long as the current U.S. Administration, following in the steps of its predecessors, is bent on maintaining its aggressive presence, whether in Nicaragua with its aid to the mercenaries or in El Salvador with its support for the repressive army.

The Costa Rican extraordinary meeting must serve to reaffirm the agreements made at the previous meeting in Tela, Honduras, where the heads of state agreed on the demobilization of the anti-Nicaraguan bands stationed in Honduras. Considering that on 5 December the deadline to meet that objective expired, Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega announced his plan to extend the demobilization of the above-mentioned bands until 31 December. Therefore, the Costa Rican meeting will implicitly reflect the urgency of abiding by that point.

However, the U.S. boycott and its professsed intention to continue financing the counterrevolutionary groups are already becoming an obstacle for the summit talks. Indeed, just a few hours ago, White House spokesman Marlin Fitzwater reiterated his government's decision to continue funding the Nicaraguan counterrevolutionaries until February 1990, and approved of the contra bands' refusal to demobilize. It is more than obvious that the mercenaries would not offer so much resistance to demobilization if those backing them with money and weapons while pushing them to a permanent war stopped meddling.

Analyzing the Bush administration's attitude toward Central America, one notices that the climate of detente that marks the relations between the United States and the Soviet Union does not mean that that policy has been extended to other regions of the world, especially Central America. The relative flexibility that Washington showed in accepting, albeit grudgingly, the new times is not reflected in its policy toward all of Latin America. Inflexibility is what prevails toward that zone. Thus, the effort is to maintain the old mentality that regarded our countries as a back yard and a strategic, political, and economic preserve. Hence the aggression and the attempt to keep the war in Central America going at all costs, a policy that will fail sooner or later.

No Official Comment on Soviet Proposal

PA0912015089 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0007 GMT 9 Dec 89

[Text] Havana, 8 Dec (EFE)—Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze's proposal today that the United States and the Soviet Union guarantee a possible weapons limitation agreement in Central America has not found an official echo in Cuba. Cuban Foreign Ministry sources questioned by EFE in this regard did not rule out the possibility that a statement on the Soviet proposal will be issued at some later date. The Cuban media has not yet reported the proposal made by Shevardnadze through exclusive statements to EFE in Moscow.

U.S. and Central American figures, such as Costa Rican President Oscar Arias, winner of the Nobel Peace Prize, have repeatedly mentioned Cuba as a country involved in the Central American conflict. According to charges that have been made, Cuba is providing the Salvadoran rebels, either directly or through Nicaragua, with some of the weapons it receives from the Soviet Union.

The Cuban authorities have not admitted or denied this charge, but Fidel Castro referred to the issue during a speech on 7 December at the funeral of Cuban soldiers killed in Africa. Castro said that "we are in solidarity with the Salvadoran revolutionaries, although we strictly comply with our obligations regarding the arms supplied by the Soviet Union."

He said: "That same imperialist government (the United States) that demands that every form of solidarity with the Salvadoran revolutionaries be discontinued is assisting a genocidal government and is sending special combat units to El Salvador."

The Cuban position was explicitly stated by Castro when he stated that "revolution cannot be imported or exported," although "these ideas are not at odds with the solidarity that revolutionaries can and should provide among themselves."

Whatever the Cuban attitude, the Soviet proposal does not seem to have much potential because the United States does not want to "place its security interests in Central America at the same level" as those of the Soviet Union, U.S. State Department spokesman Richard Boucher said in Washington today.

Cooperation Projects With Mexico Approved

FL0812234089 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 8 Dec 89

[Text] The Governments of Cuba and Mexico have signed in Mexico the final document of the joint committee's 12th meeting in which 112 cooperation projects were approved in the fields of fishery, health, agriculture, basic research, and other areas important for the socioeconomic development of the two countries.

The report was made by Ernesto Melendez, minister president of the Cuban State Committee for Economic Cooperation. He added that a scholarship program was also approved. The program includes a plan to broaden the professional and technical profile of young scientists.

He stated that joint research programs should be substantially increased in 1990 in six basic areas, including health and computers. Melendez said Mexican businessmen are interested in Cuban steel, automotive, and construction industries. They want to assess the possibility of reaching trade or cooperation agreements.

Bank President Meets With Argentine Leader

FL0912040589 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 0348 GMT 9 Dec 89

[Text] Hector Rodriguez Llompart, minister president of the National Bank of Cuba, has conveyed greetings from Commander in Chief Fidel Castro, president of the Councils of State and Ministers, to Argentine President Carlos Saul Menem. The Argentine leader received the National Bank of Cuba official, who is paying an official visit to Argentina.

Rodriguez Llompart told the press that his meeting with Menem took place in an atmosphere of cordiality and mutual understanding. He added that they discussed bilateral relations and other matters of mutual interest. Rodriguez Llompart said the Argentine president asked him to convey his greetings to Commander in Chief Fidel Castro.

Bolivian President Receives Envoy's Credentials

FL0912150589 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 1208 GMT 9 Dec 89

[Text] On the occasion of receiving the credentials of Cuban Ambassador Angel Brugues, Bolivian President Jaime Paz Zamora stressed the extensive possibilities that exist for relations with Cuba. In the Bolivian presidential palace, Paz Zamora expressed the great satisfaction that the Bolivian Government and people feel at receiving the credentials of a Cuban representative at the ambassadorial level after almost 25 years, a situation which was the result of different circumstances that have now been overcome. Paz Zamora described the ceremony as a very important event in the history of relations between Bolivia and Cuba.

For his part, the Cuban ambassador conveyed fraternal greetings to the Bolivian president from Commander in Chief Fidel Castro. Brugues also expressed the Cuban Government's desire to increase bilateral cooperation.

Soviet Defense Ministry Sends Condolence Message

FL0812164389 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 8 Dec 89

[Text] The Ministry of Defense of the Soviet Union has sent a message to our country on the occasion of the funeral ceremonies for the Cuban combatants who fell in African territories. The message says, textually:

On the day of national mourning in the Republic of Cuba, the combatants of the Soviet Armed Forces express their deep respect for the memory of the internationalist combatants who died in Angola and Ethiopia fighting against foreign aggression in the struggle for the freedom, national sovereignty, and national integrity of those countries. We share in the pain of those irreplaceable losses and express our sincere condolences to the families and relatives of the fallen combatants.

[Signed] V. Yazov, Ministry of Defense of the USSR; and A. Lizichev, chief of the Main Political Directorate of the Soviet Army and Navy.

Angolan Leader Condemns U.S. Aid to UNITA

FL0812195089 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 8 Dec 89

[Text] Jose Eduardo dos Santos, president of the People's Republic of Angola and the Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola-Labor Party [MPLA-PT], gave a news conference today at the Palace of Conventions in Havana.

[Begin recording] [Reporter] A few moments ago, you referred to U.S. policy, which is contrary to the political platform of the MPLA, which is trying to find lasting peace in Angola. The United States makes this come about with a policy contrary to the [word indistinct] with its military aid to Jonas Savimbi. What form does this military aid take?

[Dos Santos, in Portuguese with simultaneous Spanish translation] The United States of America continues to provide military aid to the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola [UNITA]. We know that planes have overflown African countries in the direction of Jamba to take military supplies. U.S. sources themselves have referred to the crash of a plane which was transporting military supplies and which had UNITA members and U.S. citizens aboard. The crash occurred in Angolan territory. It was reported that the plane had taken off from the Republic of Zaire.

We still have not made an official public statement on this incident or on any other type of violation of our air space. We strongly condemn the attitude of the United States, which is contrary to the spirit of peace that led to the negotiations in the New York agreements and is also contrary to the climate of peace that permitted those agreements to be implemented on 1 April in southern Africa.

As for the behavior of the Republic of Zaire, we are going to analyze this matter at the next meeting scheduled for 27 December. The meeting will be attended by the heads of state that make up the committee of the eight African countries which support Angola in its search for peace. [end recording]

Dos Santos Honors Fallen Internationalists

FL0812160489 Havana Domestic Radio and Television Services in Spanish 2059 GMT 7 Dec 89

[Speech by Angolan President Jose Eduardo dos Santos during a ceremony honoring Cuban internationalists fallen in Angola at El Cacahual, Havana—live]

[Text] Comrade Fidel Castro Ruz, first secretary of the Communist Party of Cuba Central Committee and president of the Councils of State and Ministers of the Republic of Cuba, ladies and gentlemen, comrades: the Angolan people, the Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola [MPLA] - Labor Party, and the People's Republic of Angola Government are very honored to have been invited along with the highest Cuban authorities to this important ceremony honoring posthumously the Cuban internationalists who fell in various countries in defense of the peoples, their independence, freedom, and peace.

Hundreds of the best sons of Cuba sacrificed their lives beside our people, who were sharing the same trenches, with the same revolutionary fervor, in defense of Angola's independence and its territorial integrity against the racist South African attackers and against the agents of imperialism.

All of them understood early, before many others, that to defend the rights of the peoples, independence, and freedom was a priority, unpostponable task for Third World countries.

They were not influenced or confused by the theories of Western politicians on individual freedom and human rights. They knew that the right of man to life and freedom was fundamental, but that the right had no channels of expression and meaning among peoples who are colonized, neocolonized and subdued by fascist dictatorships.

Only because they come from a people aware of values and imbued with the high principles of revolution and socialism, could they with firmness, courage and the self-denial that characterize the Cuban people undertake the noble action of shedding their own blood and generously giving their lives for an ideal that transcends borders and the narrow outlook of human selfishness and material interests. They are the executors of Cuba's exemplary internationalism, which, for us, is the most tangible expression of human solidarity, of solidarity among peoples in today's world.

In November 1975, our country was invaded by two foreign armies that, reinforced by mercenaries from various places, occupied the northern and southern strips and were directly threatening our capital and the very proclamation of our independence. Our beloved President Agostinho Neto then appealed to the international community for help. It was Cuba and Comrade Fidel Castro who, promptly and unconditionally, responded to that appeal at a time when the survival of the young Angolan nation was facing an imminent danger.

Many of our Cuban comrades who arrived in Luanda at that historic time were immediately deployed to the battlefront. Thus, their first impressions of Angola were the thundering of cannons and the bursts of machine-gun fire. There was not even time for formalities or for a fitting welcome. Yet, showing that they willingly volunteered to go to Angola, the internationalist combatants were only concerned about the need to immediately stem the pressure the enemy was exerting on Luanda, and they helped us stop the invading forces in Kifandongo, only 20 km from the capital city of Angola, and at the Ebo River in the south.

By that time, we had already attained glorious achievements that gave a new dimension to the ties we forged in more than 2 decades of constant struggle against our common enemy: international imperialism. These ties are today part of the heritage of our peoples, a heritage that nobody or anything will ever be able to destroy.

As the highest symbol of that glorious endeavor, we should pay special tribute here to the memory of Commander Raul Diaz Arguelles, a military chief and strategist of great stature, who was one of the first internationalists to fall fighting for the freedom, dignity, and independence of the Angolan people. He was also an oustanding role model for the hundreds of thousands of internationalist combatants who passed through Angola after him.

It is indeed impossible to describe the recent history of our country as a free, independent nation without referring to the multiple actions undertaken by our Cuban comrades in the various sectors of our society. In addition to helping in our defense, they played a decisive role in the rebuilding process, in organizing our administration, and in solving many other problems provoked by the massive flight of settlers and skilled workers at the time of our independence. The significance of the role played by physicians, teachers, and builders at that critical stage of our life as an independent nation and in the subsequent years can never be fully measured and appreciated. We just know that under adverse conditions those comrades took their reassuring gesture and their know-how to intricate areas and created the basic conditions of normal living for our population.

We are grateful to Cuba and to its people for training our people in specialized military subjects and many other development areas—a training that has been instrumental in rapidly and safely incorporating many Angolans into the productive process. A wonderful example of this is the Isle of Youth, where thousands of Angolans are learning, from a very young age, the close connection existing between study and work, and who are preparing for the arduous task of national reconstruction and the consolidation of our national sovereignty and independence.

Despite a state of war for nearly 29 years, Angola has never neglected the training of its people for the tasks of peace. In this effort, we have counted on the unbiased support of our Cuban comrades.

It was growing foreign interference that understandably led us in 1987 to request a reinforcement of military aid, thus provoking simplistic interpretations by our enemies about the nature of the Cuban internationalist action in Angola. Those enemies, who only understand the use of force and undisguised interference in the affairs of other countries, cannot understand how two peoples, inspired only by their ideals, are engaged hand in hand in a fight against regressive forces that they learned to identify at the cost of their own blood.

Our peoples' decision to defend the ideas they share became equally tangible in the decisive battles waged by the middle of last year, which brought a radical change in the correlation of forces in southern Africa, thus paving the way for dialogue and concerted actions to resolve the serious problems affecting our region. It was the defeat of the invading South African forces in the heroic battle of Cuito Cuanavale, in Chipa, and Calueque, that led the South African authorities to understand the uselessness of continuing their belligerent practices and to agree to sit at a negotiating table with Angola and Cuba under the mediation of the United States of America.

Those negotiations, which led to the signing of the New York agreements in December 1988, showed the world that Angola and Cuba—without ever relinquishing their most cherished principles—were flexible enough to allow the establishment of a just, honorable peace for all. It was thus possible, as Angola and Cuba had always proclaimed, to have the Cuban internationalists return home as glorious victors, aware that they had accomplished their duty.

Another major consequence of these agreements was the establishment of the conditions for Namibia to obtain its independence, a process that has already successfully overcome one of its most delicate stages, that of free and democratic elections under UN supervision. This process is now on the right course toward achieving a real, true independence for Namibia.

The undisputed victory obtained by the South-West African People's Organization [SWAPO] in this election demonstrates that our two countries were quite correct in their evaluation and in deciding, without sparing effort or sacrifices, to support the progressive struggle of the Namibian people.

All these examples show that the ties existing between our two peoples do not stem from an occasional, temporary alliance formed to address a certain situation, but, on the contrary, from deeply rooted bonds and from a long-term strategy aimed at promoting freedom, well-being, and progress for our peoples and all mankind.

Cuba, its people, and its heroic combatants may thus take legitimate pride in having, through their internationalist action, contributed not only to securing Angolan territorial integrity and sovereignty but also to destroying the last colonial bastion in Africa. Furthermore, Cuba also made an invaluable contribution to changing the overall regional situation in southern Africa, which was until then one of the most dangerous pockets of international tension.

The changes, although still small, are beginning to surface within South Africa itself, and the prospect of peace in Angola and Mozambique are also the result of the actions taken by Cuban internationalists, who have thus broadened their actions to promoting the easing of international tensions and the consolidation of world peace.

Little else could be asked at this level of a people who have led the revolutionary process in Latin America for more than 3 decades and who, faithful to their principles, have not hesitated in sending some of their best children thousands of kilometers away.

It is with sadness that we pay tribute to those who fell in this glorious mission. They have left a vacuum in the hearts of their relatives and friends that no one can fill. They will be missed by their comrades who shared the battles and the trenches with them. Their comrades will always remember their heroism and dedication and the dangers they faced together.

The Angolan families and the People's Armed Forces for the Liberation of Angola [FAPLA] combatants, whom we are representing here today, share this moment of profound grief and mourning with the Cuban families and with all their Cuban brothers.

In the name of the Angolan people, the MPLA-Labor Party, and the Government of the People's Republic of Angola, I am here solemnly paying our most heartfelt tribute to all those combatants who fell on Angolan soil. To these heroic sons of Cuba, to their next of kin, to the entire Cuban people, to the leadership of the Communist Party of Cuba, to the Government of the Republic of Cuba, and to the Cuban commander in chief, Comrade Fidel Castro Ruz, I want to convey on this date, which coincides with the anniversary of the death of your hero Antonio Maceo, the expressions of eternal gratitude and solidarity of the Angolan people for a noble gesture that honors a people, the revolution, and men. Thank you.

Castro Bids Farewell to Angolan President

FL0812191389 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 8 Dec 89

[Text] Jose Eduardo dos Santos, president of the People's Republic of Angola and the Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola-Labor Party, left Havana this morning. He was seen off at the airport by Commander in Chief Fidel Castro, first secretary of the Communist Party of Cuba [PCC] Central Committee and president of the Councils of State and Ministers.

The farewell ceremony was held for the Angolan leader at 1047. After the playing of the national anthems of Cuba and Angola, Fidel and Dos Santos reviewed the troops. The farewell ceremony for the president of the People's Republic of Angola was attended by Army General Raul Castro, second secretary of the PCC Central Committee and minister of the Revolutionary Armed Forces, as well as by members of the PCC Central Committee Politburo and Secretariat, leaders of political and mass organizations, and the diplomatic corps accredited in our country.

The residents of Havana also gathered at the airport to bid farewell to the visitor. The Angolan Airlines plane took off from Jose Marti International Airport at 1122 in the morning.

Zambian President Praises Fallen Internationalists

FL0812171289 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 8 Dec 89

[Text] Zambian President Kenneth Kaunda has paid tribute to the Cuban internationalist combatants who died in Angola, Ethiopia, and other nations. Kaunda said to Havana Radio Cuba that this 7 December is very important because in addition to paying tribute to a nation and a people committed to justice anywhere in the world, it also remembers all honest men who have helped with the independence of Africa. He added that the Cuban internationalist forces, the People's Armed Forces for the Liberation of Angola, and the South-West African People's Organization of Namibia changed the course of history in the southern African region with the battle of Cuito Cuanavale. Kaunda pointed out that the battle showed that the so-called invincibility of the Pretoria racist troops was only a myth. He also praised the aid provided by Cuban civilians to Zambia.

President of Guinea Sends Message of Condolence

FL0812172789 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 8 Dec 89

[Text] General Lansana Conte, president of the Republic of Guinea, has sent his condolences to the Cuban people on the day that tribute is being paid to the combatants who died while carrying out their internationalist missions in other countries. The message was conveyed by Lamine Sougoule, Guinean ambassador to Cuba, as he visited the bodies of the fallen combatants in the Museum of the Revolution in Havana. Sougoule said: At these funerals, we feel as if these were our own the children who died during these years of struggle.

Rafael Rodriguez Meets Ethiopian Counterpart

FL0712032489 Havana Television Service in Spanish 0100 GMT 7 Dec 89

[Text] Carlos Rafael Rodriguez, member of the Politburo of the Communist Party of Cuba and vice president of the Councils of State and Ministers; and Bernahu Bayeh, vice president of the Council of State and member of the Politburo of the the Workers Party of Ethiopia, presided over talks this morning between delegations from their respective countries.

The two delegations engaged in a broad exchange of ideas on the situation in Ethiopia and Cuba and on major international issues.

The Cuban vice president opened the meeting by expressing gratitude for the presence in our country of a high-level Ethiopian delegation to attend the funeral ceremonies for Cuban internationalists who fell in the line of duty in Africa.

The Ethiopian vice president said that he and the members of his delegation feel greatly honored to be able to pay tribute to the Cuban combatants who gave their lives and shed their blood on Ethiopian soil.

Malmierca Greets Guinea-Bissau, SWAPO Groups

FL0712165089 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1300 GMT 7 Dec 89

[Text] The foreign delegations that will attend the funeral ceremonies for the Cuban combatants and internationalists who fell in Africa and other territories have already arrived in Cuba. The delegation from Guinea-Bissau is headed by Vasco Cabral, vice president of that Republic, and he is accompanied by (Quito Cabi), member of the Central Committee.

Also present in our country are leaders of the South-West African People's Organization, SWAPO. The delegation is headed by Dimo Hamaambo, member of the Politburo and Central Committee and commander of the PLAN, People's Liberation Army of Namibia. He is accompanied by Charles Phillips and (Rauna Ingluwauwa), also leaders of that organization.

The two delegations were received by Isidoro Malmierca, minister of foreign relations of Cuba.

Castro Greets Lao Leaders on National Day

BK0712030289 Vientiane Domestic Service in Lao 0000 GMT 7 Dec 89

[Text] Comrade Kaysone Phomvihan, general secretary of the Lao People's Revolutionary Party [LPRP] Central Committee and chairman of the Council of Ministers, and Comrade Phoumi Vongvichit, acting president of the Lao People's Democratic Republic [LPDR], recently received a message of greetings from Comrade Fidel Castro Ruz, first secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Cuba and president of the Council of State and the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Cuba. The message reads:

On the occasion of the 14th anniversary of the establishment of the LPDR, on behalf of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Cuba, the Government, and people of the Republic of Cuba, I would like to convey sincere fraternal greetings and best wishes to you, comrades.

Over the past years the Lao people, under the LPRP's leadership, have resolutely struggled to safeguard their sovereignty, independence, and territorial integrity, striven to develop their country in all fields, and scored outstanding achievements in the cause of maintaining those fruitful achievements.

On this occasion I take great pleasure in reiterating the mutual support and friendship between our parties, governments, and peoples. I also hope for further promotion and expansion of the existing fraternal relations between our two countries for the benefit of our two peoples and in the interest of peace and social progress.

Comrades, I wish you good health and new successes in performing your noble tasks.

Haiti

President Avril Tours Central Plateau

FL0712214289 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1000 GMT 7 Dec 89

[Excerpts] [Announcer] General Avril went to mingle with the crowd yesterday in the central plateau. Moliere Richard, our correspondent in the upper central plateau, will give us details.

[Richard] On Wednesday 6 December, Gen Prosper Avril visited the central plateau accompanied by Sergeant-Major Joseph Heubreux and many members of the Armed Forces. The delegation arrived in Hinche at 0900 and went directly to the home of Vilner Joseph, who is the brother of Joseph Heubreux. The general then went to several different communes, such as Thomassique and Cerca La Source.

After leaving those areas, the general entered Hinche to inaugurate the marketplace, a marketplace begun in October 1986. The general made a symbolic distribution of plows to the peasants, distributing the plows to groups from each commune. The general talked about the town of Hinche, which is the town of the resisters. At the same time, Hinche is one of the towns in the worst shape, one of the most backward. Efforts would be made to get Hinche out of its isolation.

The general made the population many promises, such as a good electrical power system, telecommunications, roads, etc. He promised to return to Hinche to inaugurate still other works.

After all these pretty words, the general left the Hinche prefecture for Maissade. The delegation returned at 1700, going straight through to Port-au-Prince.

We also point out that since morning, no vehicles have gone to Port-au-Prince. There were two bands playing in the square, and vehicles picked up people in each commune and brought them in to await the general in Hinche.

This is Moliere Richard, Radio Soleil, Hinche.

[Announcer] [passage omitted] Our correspondent in Mirebalais informs us that all activities and all transportation were paralyzed yesterday. Why? Because Gen Prosper Avril, head of the military government, was touring the area, according to our correspondent. Like Jean-Claude Duvalier and General Namphy, Gen Avril, who is in the habit of accusing the opposition of exploiting the ignorance of the Haitian people for their own personal ends, did his own mingling with the crowd in the central plateau. He passed through Mirebalais but did not stop.

In Mirebalais, the section chiefs had come into town with people, flags, and placards to welcome the general, who did not spare them even a glance. He went straight through to Hinche. Here is our correspondent Leo Guillaume with details.

[Guillaume] [passage omitted] At approximately 0715, a delegation with wailing sirens announced that Gen Avril was passing through Mirebalais. Shortly afterward, each of the approximately section chiefs [as heard] came into town at the head of a group of people playing vaksin [traditional musical instrument made of bamboo] and carrying placards reading President Avril, we are tired of changing governments every 3 months. Some of the placards read We need work.

The general came back through town at 1900, but the rural police agents and their assistants never stopped playing their vaksin. They played them all day long. The authorities—the town magistrate and area prefect—sat and waited at the city hall all day. Well, perhaps because of fatigue, the general passed straight through, not stopping at all. Therefore, we ourselves were unable to find out what the goal of the general's visit to the central plateau was.

During all this, the square in Mirebalais was full of people. Vehicular traffic was impossible.

Halfway to the capital, at the Terre Rouge post, as of approximately 0400, many buses heading for the capital to load up with merchandise were turned back. For more than 12 hours, no vehicles in Mirebalais could take to the road. They were unable to take to the road before 1900—not until after the general had passed.

Also, there were important security measures taken in Mirebalais by men in civilian clothing armed with heavy-caliber lethal weapons in jeeps and on foot. [passage omitted]

This is Leo Guillaume, Radio Soleil, Mirebalais.

Views Army Actions

FL0812173789 Port-au-Prince Radio Nationale in Creole 1200 GMT 7 Dec 89

[Excerpts] On Wednesday 6 December, the president of the military government, Lieutenant General Prosper Avril toured the central plateau. People applauded the chief of state everywhere he went. He inaugurated several different construction projects during his tour. One of our reporters accompanied the delegation on this tour. [passage omitted]

[Reporter] At 0605, the president and his entourage left the National Palace for the central plateau. President Avril was accompanied on this tour by his wife Marie-Ange, Sergeant Major Joseph Heubreux and his wife, several members of the Cabinet—such as Minister of Interior and National Defense Brigadier General Acedius St-Louis; Minister of Social Affairs Louis Arnault Guerrier; Minister of Public Works, Transportation, and Communications Franck Paultre; Minister of Public Health and Population Dr. Serge Pinthro; Ambassador Yves Massillon, chief of protocol; and Mr. (Bogard), coordinator of the Citizens Grievances Service—and many other high ranking officials.

The president of the military government visited several towns and villages: Mirebalais, Peligre, Thomonde, Hinche, Los Palis, Thomassique, and Maissade, as well as other small places.

His first stop was Peligre. The population greeted and welcomed the chief of state and (?his escort). The presidential convoy then traveled immediately to Thomonde. A crowd of the masses and area civilian, military, and religious authorities had gathered to meet the head of the executive branch of the government. After presenting him with the keys to the city, Thomonde Magistrate Jean Athanal Pierre relayed the area's priority needs to the head of the 17 September government. [passage omitted]

Following the magistrate's speech, the Thomonde authorities invited the chief of state and his entourage to the main square in Thomonde. The president made a brief speech to the population of Thomonde.

[Begin Avril recording] This is the first time I have visited Thomonde. You have made me feel at home. I listened to the speech made by the (?mayor-magistrate) of Thomonde. I have taken note of (?the things he) said. I am going to ask that work begin immediately on the administrative complex. He spoke of transferring the communal section called La Hoye to the commune of Thomonde. We will order that this be done. [applause]

The trip has allowed me to see the condition of the road to Thomonde. We are going to try to ... [interrupted by applause and cheering, sentence left unfinished].

As you will understand, the trip is a long one. We cannot stay long. I will come back some other time. When I return, it must be to inaugurate what we are doing in Thomonde.

I ask the population of Thomonde to continue to remain disciplined. As you know, it is disorders that prevent the country from functioning. The conduct of Thomonde's population during all the disorders that have occurred in Haiti should serve as an example to other places. [end recording]

[Reporter] From Thomonde, the president and his entourage traveled to Hinche. A large crowd of several hundred men, women, and children were awaiting the president. After two little girls presented the president and his wife with a bouquet of flowers, Hinche Magistrate Evens Bedouet welcomed them and presented the keys to the city to Gen. Avril.

President Avril and his entire entourage, while in Hinche, visited Hinche Archbishop Monsignor Leonard Petion Laroche. The convoy then traveled to Los Palis via Thomassique, where the president inaugurated a socioeducational complex built by the Department of

Citizens' Grievances. The chief of protocol, Ambassador Yves Massillon, served as master of ceremonies, and the Reverend Father Marc Fivet, Thomassique parish priest, blessed the complex.

[Begin Fivet recording] [passage omitted] Please God, help all those people, especially judges, to not sentence innocent people or imprison people without a hearing. [applause] You know, Lord God—and it is not we, but the president who said—that he is a Christian and that he knows how tough it is, when they tried to handcuff him and when they beat his (?grandmother). [sentence as heard]

Now that all Haitians and foreigners are in mourning.... [changes thought] For when I see how much this hurts me, a foreigner, personally, I can just imagine how Haitians feel about it! Particularly when we see how the three men [not further identified] and others continue to suffer in prison without a trial, after having been badly beaten. Especially because the family of one of them is from Thomassique. [as heard]

Please, Lord God, touch the hearts of the authorities. Make them release these people and create in our country a system under which everyone is free to talk and write, as is now being done in many Communist countries. [end recording]

[Reporter] The chief of protocol made his own speech after the priest's speech. He also introduced the head of the executive branch of the government, Lt. Gen. Prosper Avril.

[Begin Massillon recording] You just heard Brother Marfred Marc Fivet, who just prayed, asking God to bless this administrative complex. As the priest spoke, you also all heard him ask the president—that is, tell the president that there was no one (?involved in any plot) against the president among the people who unfortunately forgot themselves, who were trying to effect a revolution.... [changes thought] There are several different ways one can unfortunately effect a revolution. They were trying, however, to organize an action to blow up the National Palace and everyone in it. Among these people is a child of Thomassique.

Well, of course, the president already knew this. He insisted, however, on coming here anyway. The president is very pleased with the welcome extended to him by the people of Thomassique.

The Reverend Father spoke of a pardon. Of course the president (?is capable of) pardoning. The president is a president! The president is the head of something called the executive branch of the government. Even if the president (?were to intend) to pardon the people, for the time being, he cannot say that he (?is pardoning them) because together with the executive branch of the government, of which the president is the head, there is something called the judicial branch of the government. The president and this is, in fact, precisely the way democracy requires things to be....[changes thought] When the judicial branch of the government is in operation, when the Justice Department is taking care of a matter, well, the president is not allowed to interfere in any way. He must allow legal proceedings to run their course. He must allow the judges to do their jobs. He must allow the examining magistrate to finish examining the dossier, etcetera, etcetera, before intervening. Once everything is in order as far as the Justice Department is concerned, regardless of whether you are guilty-....[changes thought] For example, if you are not guilty, OK, you aren't guilty. If, however, you are guilty, once the legal proceedings have run their course, then the president may say: All right, the courts say you are guilty. Well, as president, I hereby pardon you. [end recording]

[Reporter] After the chief of protocol, Ambassador Yves Massillon spoke, the president of the military government, Lt. Gen. Prosper Avril, addressed the crowd:

[Begin Avril recording] You must know that this is the child of a peasant talking to you. [applause and cheering]

There have been many speeches made here. I have heard and remembered them all, for I have a good memory. In fact, it is because I do have a good memory that I am where I am today. [applause]

I have heard all of Thomassique's grievances, but I could have ignored them because things are the same everywhere peasants live in Haiti. People have to walk around in darkness at night, banging up their toes. [applause] When they need health care, obtaining a physician is a big problem. Even when they have a dispensary, doctors do not want to come to peasant communities. When they are thirsty, they have to drink contaminated water. [applause] Thus, I am not going to enumerate the grievances the masses of Thomassique, (Chaltadin), Cerca La Source, La Miel, Coladere and all other places might have, because I know that, for the past 185 years, no one has ever thought to do anything for the peasants!

I also heard many pretty speeches about the current situation. I want to tell you that since we came to power on 17 September....[changes thought] And you remember under what conditions 17 September evolved. It was in reaction to the vile things that were happening. Churches were being burned down. People were being murdered. And that's why 17 September occurred. [passage indistinct]

And we (?are staying) within that line. The 17 September line will always remain the line (?of) the masses, the line (?of) the peasants. Everything, however, has its limits! Then, after 17 September, on 16 October, a group of men thought they could once again throw the nation into a predicament. Well, the clean elements in the National Palace removed the dirty ones. They went to jail. The Army conducted its investigation. The Army's investigation proved they deserved to be brought to trial and sentenced. Gen. Avril, heart in hand, said: Give them a break. Just hold on to their dossiers. Then came 2 April.

On 31 March, the government issued the list of people who would make up the electoral council that would hold elections in Haiti. A cleanup was going on within the Army, to be rid of all its bad elements. The next day, on the night of 1 April, people showed up at the home of the president of the government and handcuffed his wife, his 20-year-old daughter, his 14-year-old son, arrested....

I will never forget that my old lady, (?who is now) 89 years old, was also arrested.

After the confrontation between brothers that certain men's ambitions caused—brothers who should live together in peace within the Haitian Army—we managed to save everything that needed to be saved, and kept (?some of) our brothers in the Army afterwards, because I know that they are here to defend the territory that Dessalines [Haitian hero] left for us. [applause] And then General Avril said: Pardon again. [applause] But now, friends, the same men we pardoned in October of 1988 [as heard], well, these same men have changed.

In 1988, they wanted to overthrow the government. In April of 1989, once again they wanted to overthrow the government. But now, they don't just want to overthrow the government! They want to kill the president! This we will not let slide! [applause] When we do this, we are not doing it for ourselves. We are soldiers. I am not afraid to die. We are doing it for all future presidents. (?Old-time Army discipline) must be re-established! A man must not be allowed to think that just because a soldier is poor, he can do anything he wants. People must not think that just because a soldier does not have a beautiful home, they can come and offer him money to do evil things. This kind of thing has to stop.

We have said we (?will not be) dictatorial. The case is in the hands of the judiciary. It is up to the judiciary to decide what to do about it! We must shoulder our responsibilities. We are not going to destroy the institution called chief of state here in Haiti. If we allow this to happen, if there is no chief of state in Haiti, you all know what will happen to the country! [applause] When I say chief of state, I am not talking about General Avril. I am talking about the chief of state as an institution. Every country must have an authority. Masses or groups are not what rule countries. Countries are ruled by an authority. This institution, therefore, must be protected.

People say certain things. Before you say them, go to the source. Seek information! I heard over the radio the other day that a man who telephoned in a threat on the life of the President of the United States was arrested and is currently in prison. In Haiti, however, a man who calls in a soldier and offers him money to go and execute the president should not be in jail? This should be allowed to continue? [end recording]

[Reporter] This is the first report of Gen. Avril's big tour of the central plateau on 6 December. Many other things were said and done. A large public marketplace was inaugurated in Hinche. One hundred fourteen plows were distributed to small peasant farmers. The military government envisions projects for different areas. A visit was made to Maissade. All this will be discussed in part two of our reportage on this tour. [passage omitted]

Further on Tour

FL0812210489 Port-au-Prince Radio Nationale in Creole 1200 GMT 8 Dec 89

[Excerpts] Lieutenant General Prosper Avril, president of the military government, toured the central plateau on 6 December 1989. Big crowds applauded the president everywhere he went. This was a triumphant tour of the central plateau. Here is a report on the second part of his tour.

[Reporter] [Passage omitted] After inaugurating the Thomassique complex, the delegation returned to Hinche, where it inaugurated a big communal marketplace built by the Citizens Grievances Service. Here's what President Avril said during this inauguration:

[Begin Avril recording] It is a great pleasure for me to come here to turn over to you this marketplace, which will protect the vendors from the sun. We know how harsh that sun can be, because our families too live amidst such hardships. [passage omitted]

This marketplace is an important symbol for us. It shows what we can accomplish when we do not just sit around wasting state money, when we do not just sit there and refuse to finish what some previous government began—for we ourselves are seeking to ensure the continuity of the state for the good of the population.

A second source of satisfaction for me is that Hinche is the first chief departmental town I have visited to talk to the population. This is not without significance. I know that Hinche, the central plateau, is the birthplace of a great man named Charlemagne Peralte [Haitian hero] and that ... [applause] and that in the battle we are waging here in Charlemagne Peralte's town, in a town that is a symbol of Haitian nationalism [applause], in the town that is the symbol of the resistance of the Haitian people. I could not fail to make this pilgrimage, to suck out of the bone the fortifying marrow of this resistance and this nationalism, so as to be able to lead the country along the line (?traced by) Charlemagne Peralte. [passage indistinct] to ask something important of the population of Hinche and the central plateau in general, who have consistently conducted themselves properly [korek] throughout all the disorders that have been being caused [k'ap menen] in Haiti. They have never participated in any disorder. This is what we need to make the country function properly.

The people of the central plateau know that there can be no democratic process without stability. There can be no democratic process without work. This stability requires respect for the law (?in) institutions of all kinds, (?by) people of all kinds. Our penal and civil codes must be fully respected. This is the only way we will be able to maintain, in Haiti, the stability that will permit the nation to develop. Also, such stability requires respect for the nation's institutions: respect for the judiciary, the Army, the Church, the schools, women, children.... [applause]

Everyone—without exception—should respect the nation's institutions and laws. That's how the country must function. [Se avek respe enstitisyon ak respe lwa pa tout moun ki plase pou respekte yo, se konsa pou peyi-a mache]. [end recording]

[Reporter] After inaugurating the communal marketplace, the delegation went to Hinche's prefecture, where many other government officials made speeches. [passage omitted]

CATH Claims Jailed Militants Dying

FL0812185489 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1000 GMT 7 Dec 89

[Text] The condition of Evans Paul, Jean Auguste Mesyeux, and Etienne Marineau, which continues to deteriorate in the dungeons of the National Penitentiary, is still causing increasing anxiety to the opposition.

After the statement by the top man of the Unified Party of Haitian Communists [PUCH] [Rene Theodore] to the effect that the Haitian judiciary and other authorities will have to bear responsibility for the death of the three men, and that the PUCH is ready to support any and all peaceful actions undertaken to obtain the men's release, the members of the Autonomous Organization of Haitian Workers [CATH], through their spokeman Manusi Pierre, have now expressed their concern about the men's physical condition. Manusi Pierre says Paul and Marineau can no longer stand, while Mesyeux cannot see well. Pierre called on all sectors of the population to rise up and demand the release of these political prisoners, before they die.

[Begin Manusi Pierre recording] According to the latest information received this morning from CATH, the situation is much more serious than people thought. Evans Paul cannot get up from a lying-down position. He does not even get up to go to the bathroom. His body is beginning to swell. Forget about his eating anything! And, as we told the press, he lost consciousness the day before yesterday. He is now almost in a coma.

Marineau has not changed much, but he is getting worse. He is still shaking and cannot stand. When he talks, you cannot hear what he is saying. He seems out of it.

As for Mesyeux, one of his hands is beginning to swell. He cannot stand, because, as you know, the soles of his feet were beaten. Now his entire body has begun to itch, and if you stand in front of him, he has multiple vision. I mean, he does not see well anymore; and every time he coughs he brings up a kind of pus, something malodorous, from his chest.

Thus, we now realize that Avril's objective is to let them die in prison. Despite the fact that they are innocent, despite the fact that everyone can see that they are innocent, (?despite the fact that their innocence has been proven in court), they (?are not going) to release them.

Thus, I am calling on all strata of Haitian society to once again rise up and carry out a series of peaceful actions to obtain the unconditional release of our three comrades. If this does not happen within the next few hours, we will find ourselves having to comply with these sorcerers' formalities to recover the bodies of these comrades. [end recording]

Costa Rica

Madrigal 'Pleased' With Shevardnadze Statements

PA0912000189 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2227 GMT 8 Dec 89

[Text] San Jose, 8 Dec (ACAN-EFE)—Costa Rican Foreign Minister Rodrigo Madrigal Nieto said today that the participation "in good faith" of the Soviet Union would help to achieve peace in Central America.

After reading the statements made by Soviet Foreign Affairs Minister Eduard Shevardnadze, which he made exclusively to EFE in Moscow and which were published in the Costa Rican papers today, Madrigal said he is "very pleased."

Madrigal stated: "As he (Shevardnadze) well says," all the parties involved in the Central American conflict, "must make a joint and firm effort to comply with the agreements that have already been signed."

Madrigal told ACAN-EFE that "Central America is plagued with good intentions, generous statements and agreements," but, he added, "we must abide by them faithfully."

Today in Moscow, Shevardnadze said "that the basic principle for handling foreign affairs" —including in Central America—"must be strict and faithful compliance with the commitments that have been made."

Madrigal said that the Soviet attitude "is very valuable, because it can help other countries and other fronts to exchange weapons for dialogue."

Shevardnadze told EFE that at the most recent summit between U.S. President Geroge Bush and Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev in the Mediterranean Sea, "they again accurately expressed their support for a political solution to the Central American conflict."

Shevardnadze said that it has been proven "that to achieve a solution to conflicts it is absolutely necessary to reject methods of force and to develop an intensive search for a balance of interests, although that process may at times travel on rough roads."

Madrigal agrees with and hopes that "more specific" steps will be taken at the presidential summit to be held in San Jose (Costa Rica) between 11 and 12 December.

Madrigal added: For example, we must "resort to the good offices of ONUCA [UN Observer Group in Central America] so that it will not only take care of the border between Honduras, Nicaragua, and El Salvador but also supervise the cease-fire in Nicaragua and especially in El Salvador in order to provide the parties with the best possible atmosphere for the talks."

In addition, the other point on which Madrigal agrees with his Soviet counterpart is that "there are too many weapons in Central America."

Madrigal said: "If we could lower the levels of militarism, the level of dialogue, work, and political experience would automatically rise."

Madrigal stressed that it is "absurd" that in a world "heading toward unity"—as Shevardnadze said—there are "five small countries" with a minimum degree of development that are fighting and destroying each other instead of reconciling and working for a better standard of living.

El Salvador

Cristiani To Demand Halt to FMLN Hostilities

PA0912002289 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2247 GMT 2250 GMT 8 Dec 89

[Text] San Salvador, 8 Dec (ACAN-EFE)—At the Central American presidential summit,which begins in Costa Rica on 10 December, Salvadoran President Alfredo Cristiani will demand a "total halt of hostilities" by the guerrillas.

An official communique issued today by the National Information Center (CIN) confirmed that Cristiani will attend the meeting, but that "he will not permit that the agreements (of the summit) be traps for El Salvador."

According to the communique, the president "will criticize Nicaragua's open interference in El Salvador's domestic affairs." The communique accuses Nicaragua and Cuba of seeking to "regionalize the conflict, frustrate the Nicaraguan electoral process, and strengthen the totalitarian dictatorship that smothers the fraternal relationship of the people."

The official communique added that the agreements of the previous summit were flouted by Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega "because while actions to demobilize the contras were being carried out, he was lending his territory and sending weapons to the FMLN (Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front)."

"In this way, the FMLN is paying its debt to Ortega," the CIN communique concluded stating.

Cristiani and Ortega will attend the summit, the sixth to be held by the five Central American presidents. They will discuss the contra demobilization process and the Salvadoran armed conflict.

Cristiani Holds News Conference Before Summit

Proposes Peace Talks, Cease-Fire

PA0912193889 Paris AFP in Spanish 1925 GMT 9 Dec 89

[Text] San Salvador, 9 Dec (AFP)—Salvadoran President Alfredo Cristiani today proposed renewal of peace talks with guerrilla groups in Caracas, Venezuela, on 20 December provided the latter "cease all terrorist actions" effective next week.

During a news conference shortly before his departure for San Jose, where he will attend the Central American presidents' summit, Cristiani asked the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front (FMLN) to suspend—no later than "15 December"—fighting, harassment, and sabotage actions they have been carrying out since a general offensive was launched on 11 November.

The president made it quite clear that the agreement on a cease-fire does not imply a surrender, only the creation of an opportunity for negotiations which will allow the search for a political agreement by 15 February 1990.

He added that negotiations should allow the FMLN to put down its weapons and join the political process in El Salvador by then.

The topic of El Salvador, worsened by the rebel offensive, will be the main topic at the presidential summit to be held in the Costa Rican capital on Sunday, 10 December.

Offers Reward to Informers

PA0912203089 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2002 GMT 9 Dec 89

[Text] San Salvador, 9 Dec (ACAN)— The Salvadoran Government today offered $250,000 to whoever helps "discover the assassins" of the six Jesuits riddled with bullets at the Central American University on 16 November.

The announcement was made by President Alfredo Cristiani during a news conference, in which he offered $250,000 to "the person or persons who, against their will or unwittingly, indirectly participated in the event and provides relevant information that helps solve the crime."

The government offered whoever provides information on the assassination of the Jesuits—five Spaniards and one Salvadoran—a woman, and her daughter "the guarantee that they and their family will be settled as residents in a foreign country."

The government will also carry out the necessary procedures "to get a pardon to exonerate (the informers) of the crime in which they may have indirectly participated" during the mass murder.

Urges Acceptance of Cease-Fire

PA0912222789 Paris AFP in Spanish 2125 GMT 9 Dec 89

[Text] San Salvador, 9 Dec (AFP)—President Alfredo Cristiani today made an urgent appeal to the leftist guerrillas to resume peace talks on 20 December in Caracas to resolve the armed conflict that has been bleeding El Salvador for almost 10 years.

Cristiani made the appeal during a news conference at the government house, where he asked the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front (FMLN) to declare a cease-fire by 15 December at the latest.

He said the Salvadoran Government is willing to resume the dialogue process, and the best venue would be Caracas. The two parties had agreed to meet there on 20-21 November, but that meeting was not held.

The parties met in September and October in Mexico and Costa Rica, respectively, but the dissidents' positions prevented reaching an agreement for a cease-fire.

Cristiani said that the dialogue will take place on the condition that the FMLN declare and give public proof as of 15 December that it is ending "all types of terrorist actions," especially those directly affecting the civilian population.

According to Cristiani, the government is not asking the rebels to lay down their weapons unilaterally.

"The Salvadoran people do not deserve to be and should not continue to be the ones most affected by the irrationality of this conflict [words indistinct] The least the FMLN can do is to stop all the actions that directly affect the civilian population," the president, who has been in power since 1 June, stated.

Cristiani will announce this position at the Central American presidential summit to be held on 10-11 December in Costa Rica.

He added that he will demand the fulfillment of all the commitments of the Esquipulas II peace accord (1987), mainly the part stating that one's territory will not be used to attack another country.

"We will demand that Nicaragua remove from its territory all the FMLN elements in that country, and allow the ONUCA [UN Observer Group in Central America] to verify the fulfillment of these commitments without any restriction."

Asked by reporters about the official delegation that will travel to Venezuela to talk [words indistinct] headed by Presidency Minister Juan Antonio Martinez and Justice Minister Oscar Santamaria.

However, he did not rule out the possibility of modifying it, depending on the rebels' counterproposal.

Details on Proposals Reported

PA1012155789 San Salvador Radio Cadena Sonora in Spanish 0330 GMT 10 Dec 89

[Report on President Alfredo Cristiani news conference at Government House in San Salvador on 9 December—monitored in progress; passages within quotation marks recorded]

[Text] [Cristiani] "...Dr Jose Francisco Guerrero. We captured one of the killers, who was wounded during the attack. He later testified that he belongs to an urban commando cell of the FPL [People's Liberation Forces];

that he used the alias of (Z Jaime); that the leader of the group was a woman, who was being followed; and that when ballistics tests were performed on the weapon, which is a 45-caliber pistol, it was determined that this same weapon was used to murder Edgar Chacon, (Payes), a National Guard agent, and in an attack late last year against the mayor of Soyapango—pardon, yes, the year was 1988.

"In subsequent testimony, the terrorist with the alias of (Z Jaime) said the following—and I will read the transcript of his depositions textually:

"He said: Days after the explosives attack against the FENASTRAS [Salvadoran Workers National Union Federation] headquarters, the event was commented on at the university campus by my superior, whose alias is (Z-Juan). He said this action was regrettable but necessary because the main or (?contrary) idea was to create martyrs and incite the organized and unorganized masses to generate a deep hatred against the aggressive actions of the repressive public security corps and the Armed Forces in general. The statements go on."

President Cristiani referred to the executive branch's decision to resubmit the amendments to the penal code and the penal procedural code to the Legislative Assembly for discussion.

[Cristiani] "I now want to report to you that on 8 Decmeber the executive branch drew up and signed a resubmission note [nota de devolucion] to the Legislative Assembly on the amendments to the penal code, making observations about them. The observations included cases in which the amendment was not consistent with the penal procedural code, on one hand, and with the rest of the amendments, on the other.

"However, we returned with observations three articles which, in our opinion, do not comply with the spirit of our Constitution regarding subversion of public order. We feel that the possession of a videocassette, photograph, or pamphlet is not sufficient evidence for a personal criminal action. Regarding the free expression of doctrines, which our constitution described in the past as anarchistic and contrary to democracy—but all of which are allowed by our 1983 Constitution, formally pluralistic and representative—we feel that the simple teaching or dissemination of doctrines like Marxism, communism, or others is not a crime. In this sense, we feel that an action must be punished when a person is guilty of subverting public order and not simply teaching.

"These are three of the reformed articles the executive branch returned to the Legislative Assembly yesterday with the request that they be more deeply discussed to avoid making errors that would result in restrictions on freedom of assembly, on one hand, and free speech, on the other."

"Just a few words to explain the current military situation. We believe that still, regrettably, following the FMLN's [Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front] irrationality, we cannot rule out a continuation of their violent actions. We know that around the capital there are still groups of terrorists, especially in the southern area, the northwest—the San Salvador volcano—and in the northeast, to the north of Soyapango muncipality. The military, however, has taken the offensive in these three areas where FMLN groups have been chased. Fighting has taken place over the last few days, with over 100 casualties inflicted upon the FMLN in 3 days.

"We believe, however, they have left within the capital great numbers of weapons, some of which have been discovered. Some groups are in hiding, using civilians, and are carrying out terrorist activities. They have burned buses and gasoline stations and murdered Dr Francisco Jose Guerrero; and on 7 December they fired three or four mortar rounds at random, falling on private homes. One of them fell on the house of the Supreme Court of Justice president. We believe these actions are just mere terrorism, indiscriminately firing mortars on the capital's civilians.

"We believe they have no further capacity except to carry out these terrorist acts for confusion and anarchy among the civilian population. Thank God, our population is very brave and heroic. We have been noticing with pride how the population has been working normally in all of San Salvador, going to their jobs, with businesses opening and trying to operate normally. There are still some threats in the city of San Miguel, where a group of terrorists are concentrated to the northeast of the city. Here, too, the Armed Forces have begun an offensive to quickly end any imminent danger."

President Cristiani said that the government's position at the 10 December presidential summit will be open to restarting a dialogue with the insurgents on 20 December, in Caracas, Venezuela, as long as the FMLN no longer carries out armed actions in urban areas, but they do not have to lay down their weapons and should continue actions only against military targets.

[Cristiani] "As you all have been able to see for yourselves, the government has never been against continuing the dialogue process to find a political solution to the Salvadoran conflict. It has been the FMLN that unilaterally broke this dialogue process by not turning up at Caracas, Venezula, as had been agreed in San Jose, Costa Rica. We, however, are going to make a definite proposal in Costa Rica, which in general terms is as follows:

"The Salvadoran Government is willing to restart the dialogue process. Most convenient would be for this to take place in Caracas, with the following condition: Beginning on 15 December, 3 days after the Central American presidential meeting [3-second break in reception], the FMLN should publicly declare and give proof of compliance that it will end all types of terrorist acts, especially those that directly or indirectly affect civilians.

We want to clarify that we are not asking them to lay down their arms, as was (?attempted) many times. If the FMLN continues its irrational behavior, the Armed Forces will continue fighting them. Terrorist actions against civilians must end. The people do not deserve to continue being the most affected by the irrationality of all this fighting. We think the least the FMLN can do is to stop all actions that affect, directly or indirectly, the civilian population. Military targets are something else; but if we analyze things, up to this moment not a single military objective was the target since 11 November. They have not even been able to take over a Civil Defense post. All actions have been against civilians, trying to intimidate them, to create terror among the population. The cessation of terrorist acts should be the FMLN's proof of sincerity and will to really try to seek a solution by way of dialogue. If the FMLN today accepts ending all actions against the civilian population, then we are willing on 20 December to go to Caracas and continue the dialogue process and talks on all the topics the FMLN wishes to talk about. This will be to ensure that by 15 February we have a solution to the conflict."

President Cristiani also referred to the need for the people to remain united, and said that the state of siege was extended because it was necessary.

[Cristiani] "We feel this challenge must be taken up by the entire population. In times of crisis unity means strength, and with the unity of the Salvadoran people and the help of God, of course—we ask this from the prince of peace as he is called—we want peace in El Salvador, peace Salvadorans want, as soon as possible.

"On this note I end my brief report—maybe it was not so brief after all, but we believe it was necessary—dear reporter friends. Mauricio, [not further indentified] perhaps we could now start the questions and answers?"

[Mauricio] "Rene Hurtado of El Mundo newscast of YSKL."

[Hurtado] "Mr President, I want to thank you in the name of the radio newscast directors for your kindness in replying to the letter requesting reopening of the newscasts. Mr President, at the summit in Costa Rica, you say that dialogue may be continued—I know this means you, but does this include negotiations? Also, will there be any Armed Forces representatives on the dialogue commission?"

[Cristiani] "I want to first address the question of your colleagues. I want to tell you that although the state of emergency has been extended, having an effect on the articles dealing with freedom of speech, we want to say that as long as the situation continues developing—becoming normalized—the government does not have the slightest intention of restricting freedom of information. Obviously, if an emergency arose, we would probably have to restrict it. You may be sure that our intention during this crisis is to continue returning to normal and to allow you to report as you always have done.

"When we speak of dialogue, obviously there are certain topics that need to be negotiated, discussed, and agreed on. I have said we are willing to discuss all the topics the FMLN has proposed. This does not mean we are going to accept all what the FMLN says, because there are certain things that are somewhat senseless and absurd. There are certain things we believe can be discussed—how we can improve consolidating democracy in our country—democracy is becoming stronger and stronger. There are many fields for discussion and dialogue. We believe that if the meeting is approached with sincerity and an open mind seeking an agreement, and not with capricious ideas seeking tactical and strategic advantage during the dialogue process, agreements are possible. We believe we can find ways of expediting the process and, as I was saying, to have an agreement by 15 February to eliminate violence completely from the country and to begin the FMLN's incorporation into the country's democratic process. The Armed Forces' representatives have been present at discussions, but if the FMLN wanted this to be officially (?included), we have no problem with that."

[Mauricio] "Nelson Lopez from Cadena Sonora."

[Lopez] "Thanks for reopening the radio newscasts. In the wake of the the Bush-Gorbachev summit, do you believe this could be positive for this extraordinary meeting? We also want to ask if you believe that after the presidential talks, especially between President Ortega and yourself, relations between El Salvador and Nicaragua could improve?"

[Cristiani] "I do not have in-depth information on what President Bush and Mr Gorbachev discussed in Malta regarding Central America. In general terms, we see that at least one of the sides—the United States—has great interest in seeing that both superpowers help bring peace to the area. We see that although there have not been any great steps in Malta, we hope that at their 1990 official meeting the topic will again be discussed and that they then will both help to bring peace to our region."

Cristiani added:

[Cristiani] "If Nicaragua fully complies with the Esquipulas II agreements and helps end aggression in El Salvador, then relations between both countries can certainly improve."

Rebels Respond to Cristiani Cease-Fire Proposal

PA0912200289 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 1901 GMT 9 Dec 89

[Text] The regime's disinformation network has reported that President Cristiani is going to demand a total cessation of hostilities of the guerrillas at the summit and that he will not allow the agreements reached at the summit to become traps for El Salvador.

At the summit, the Salvadoran Government will not seek peace but the FMLN's surrender and condemnation of Nicaragua.

FMLN Will Accept Cease-Fire Before Summit

PA0912160489 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 1542 GMT 9 Dec 89

[Text] San Salvador, 9 Dec (DPA)—The Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front, FMLN, has announced prior to the special summit to be held in San Jose, Costa Rica, that it is prepared to accept a cease-fire, but has stepped up sabotage and violence during the last few hours.

Regarding the summit, which will supposedly address two problems of concern to Nicaragua—the demobilization of the contras and the alleged assistance to the Salvadoran rebels, as charged by Salvadoran President Alfredo Cristiani—the FMLN reiterated today it will accept a cease-fire provided there is international verification of violators.

However, the FMLN includes an additional element, which is that verification not be limited to the military aspect only because this period could be used by the government to persecute and indiscriminately repress leaders of political, union, cooperative, and popular organizations.

The FMLN feels that it is indispensable to create a proper climate for the talks, but they must be based on negotiated agreements, commitments verified by the international community, and not unilateral decisions or promises.

Observers said that, according to these conditions, the FMLN could even ask for a repeal of the law on the state of emergency, which suspends constitutional guarantees, and an antiterrorist law allowing citizens to be jailed even on simple presumptions of planning acts against the state.

The FMLN stated in commentaries broadcast by its clandestine stations that the international community has not realized the full scope of the human rights violations perpetrated in El Salvador, adding that the international community recently realized this because a resolution condemning the country's human rights policy was recently approved by a majority of countries. That is the position outlined by the rebels to the Central American presidents scheduled to meet tomorrow, 10 December. and on Monday, 11 December, in San Jose, Costa Rica.

Meanwhile violence, above all sabotage on the electric system and transportation activities, has recently increased, causing considerable damage to the national economy. Furthermore, the FMLN warned that sabotage activities on the transportation sector will increase in the near future, adding that its forces have been ordered to destroy all kinds of vehicles circulating on the main highways and secondary roads, except duly identified press vehicles and ambulances. At least 40 buses, private vehicles, and commercial vehicles were destroyed throughout the week, mainly in the capital and in the country's western and northern sectors.

Military sources have confirmed attacks perpetrated at midnight and early this morning on National Guard positions north of the capital—in San Ramon and Ciudad Delgado—and military road blocks in Cojutepeque, but no casualties were reported.

Meanwhile, the government yesterday extended—through the Legislative Assembly—the state of emergency for an additional 30 days. The deputies consider that the reasons for the state of emergency still prevail, based on the military report received a few days ago by the commission analyzing the ruling.

Certain Christian Democratic deputies asked that the extension not include the restrictions on freedom of expression, but what is considered as the "government's machine" turned down the request.

The Legislative Assembly yesterday also approved the nation's 1990 general budget, 4,255,730,060 colones, meaning over $850 million. This represents a 2.2 percent increase over the 1988 budget and the largest percentage, 40 percent, is destined for the defense and public security sector.

FMLN Political Leader Calls for Cease-Fire

PA0912162289 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 1200 GMT 9 Dec 89

[Text] We feel that the negotiating table should be expanded, Miguel Saenz Varela, member of the Political Diplomatic Commission of the FMLN [Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front], said during a news conference in Peru. The rebel leader said: The political parties that have played a very active role, the country's social forces, the government, and the FMLN must participate in the negotiations.

Saenz, who also met with important political figures in Peru, explained that the current, viable solution is a cease-fire, that weapons be silenced, and that all involved stand down at their current locations under international verification. This would generate conditions for helping to take care of tending to the wounded and the civilian population, Saenz said.

Electric Power at 50 Percent, Rationed in Capital

PA0812144289 San Salvador Domestic Service in Spanish 1247 GMT 8 Dec 89

[Text] The Electric and Light Company of El Salvador, CAESS, has reported that because of terrorist sabotage against the power system, the company has rationed the electricity for a 5-hour period in different zones of the capital.

CAESS units have toured the capital and, as of 7 December, had not found any destroyed poles. Therefore, the damage was caused in the country side. The rationing of electricity on 8 December was as follows: The sector of Escalon, San Benito, Planes de Rendero, San Jacinto, San Marcos, and other neighborhoods had no electricity between 0800 and 1300. The Miramonte neighborhood, Metrocentro, northern highway up to Matrices Frosty, La Tiendona, Concepcion Street, San Joaquin neighborhood, and Soyapango residential areas had no electricity between 1300 and 1800. San Miguel, La Union, San Francisco Gotera, and San Francisco de Lima are supplied electricity through the San Miguel emergency plan.

According to CAESS spokesmen, the institution is working with only 50 percent of its capacity in the capital.

Ponce Announces All-Out Campaign Against FMLN

PA0912145089 San Salvador Radio Cadena Cuscatlan 1240 GMT 9 Dec 89

[Text] Colonel Rene Emilio Ponce, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff of the Salvadoran Armed Forces, has said that an all-out persecution campaign against the FMLN [Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front] terrorist assassins has begun and 25 antiaircraft missiles have been confiscated. The high command has ordered an all-out campaign against the terrorists, who have been dislodged from the urban areas and forced into the north of Soyapango and south of Antiguo Cuscatlan. The officer said that communist assassins have been hard hit because many have been killed and wounded and large amounts of arms and ammunition have been confiscated.

The Armed Forces reported that 110 terrorists have died during fighting in San Salvador's north and southeast areas. Ponce also said that troops have confiscated 25 antiaircraft missiles from the FMLN—24 of which were SAM-7's—915 rifles, 12 carbines, 41 submachine guns and more war materiel. The Salvadoran Government has criticized the fact that the Nicaraguan regime supplies the FMLN terrorists with powerful weapons—especially surface-to-air missiles—which so far have missed hitting Armed Forces airplanes. Ponce added that any terrorist attempts to enter the capital will be neutralized.

Official Delegation To Explain Position to Spain

PA0812160189 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1457 GMT 8 Dec 89

[Text] San Salvador, 8 Dec (ACAN - EFE)—A large Salvadoran official delegation will leave for Spain over the weekend to meet with Spanish authorities and explain the Salvadoran Government's position on the current situation in the country.

The delegation will be headed by Presidency Minister Juan Antonio Martinez Varela. Other members will be Adolfo Rey Prendes, vice president of the Legislative Assembly, and Attorney General Rina Prendes.

A member of the mission—businessman Archi Baldocchi of ARENA [Nationalist Republican Alliance]—told ACAN-EFE that the visit is intended "to clear up doubts" about the Salvadoran situation.

The Salvadoran Army and the guerrillas have been engaged in heavy fighting since 11 November, when the guerrillas launched a large-scale offensive.

A few days later, six Jesuit priests—five of whom were Spaniards—were murdered by men dressed in military uniforms because of their links to the left wing.

"We reiterate the government's intention to uncover the circumstances in which the Jesuits died," Archi added.

The Salvadoran Government, headed by rightist Alfredo Cristiani, has offered to bring in Spanish technicians and those of other nationalities to aid in the investigation.

The delegation—which will remain in Spain until 13 December—plans to meet with Spanish Defense Minister Narciso Serra, and Jose Antonio Yanez, Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez' foreign policy adviser, among others.

The recent fighting between the Army and the leftist guerrillas of the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front [FMLN] has left 2,000 people dead in addition to the 70,000 that have died violently in the last 10 years.

Some 100 Spaniards have left El Salvador in the past several weeks because of the increase in violence.

The Spanish Government has demanded a "total" solution of the Jesuits' murder and, along with the other EC member countries, has called for a negotiated solution to the conflict.

Official Welcomes Soviet Weapons Limitation Plan

PA0812231589 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2200 GMT 8 Dec 89

[Text] San Salvador, 8 Dec (ACAN-EFE)—Roberto Angulo, Salvadoran Legislative Assembly vice president, today noted his interest in the Soviet Union's offer to guarantee, together with the United States, a possible weapons-limitation agreement in Central America. "Any influential world figure, whether a Russian minister or the President of the United States, who can help the Salvadoran people live in peace receives our support," Deputy Angulo told ACAN-EFE.

Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze today told EFE the "Soviet Union would be prepared to intervene jointly with the United States as the guarantor of an agreement on halting all weapons shipments to Central America." "I hope that what he (Shevardnadze) is saying is true," Angulo noted.

However, Deputy Angulo said, "we are certain that Soviet weapons are arriving via Nicaragua," and added: "We do not know if (Fidel) Castro gives them to (Daniel) Ortega or if Russia feigns ignorance."

Angulo, deputy of the ruling Nationalist Republican Alliance (ARENA), told those who "supply weapons to the region that they have not been sincere, because they have been talking about peace while sending weapons to the guerrillas and knew that a very violent aggression was being planned here." The official was referring to an offensive launched by the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front (FMLN) on 11 November that the Salvadoran Government believes has been supported by Nicaragua and Cuba through Soviet weapons shipments to the guerrillas. Minister Shevardnadze also advocated a political solution to the Central American conflict. The head of Soviet diplomacy said that the "only" solution to the armed Salvadoran conflict is a political dialogue. Salvadoran President Alfredo Cristiani will attend the regional "summit" that will begin on 10 December in Costa Rica with the participation of the five area presidents.

Assembly Extends State of Emergency for 30 Days

PA0912002089 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2305 GMT 8 Dec 89

[Text] San Salvador, 8 Dec (ACAN-EFE)—With the approval of a law that suspends certain constitutional guarantees over the next 30 days, the Salvadoran Legislative Assembly today extended the state of emergency that was declared in the country on 12 November.

The law was approved with the favorable vote of four parties represented in the Legislative Assembly: the ruling ARENA [Nationalist Republican Alliance] party, the Christian Democracy, and two other parties of the moderate right.

The suspension of the guarantees is aimed at "defending the democratic state" from the offensive launched by the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front (FMLN) guerrilla movement on 11 November.

The day after the beginning of the offensive, the government issued a state of emergency decree, which included media censorship, suspension of the right to assemble, associate, and demonstrate, and imposed strict limitations on freedom of speech.

Judge Orders Provisional Detention for Casolo

PA0912022689 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0038 GMT 9 Dec 89

[Text] San Salvador, 8 Dec (ACAN-EFE)—A Salvadoran military judge today gave instructions for provisional imprisonment of U.S. citizen Jennifer Casolo, who was detained on 26 November. According to the Army, she had in her home an arms cache destined for the guerrillas.

The judge, Guillermo Hernandez, also ordered Casolo's possessions, up to and including $10,000, seized under charges of "subversion, illegal association, and possession of lethal weapons."

Casolo, who denied the Army's charges, was detained with two Salvadorans in San Salvador early on 26 November.

Ramsey Clark, former U.S. under secretary of justice [title as received], is in San Salvador to defend her.

Casolo, 28, in charge of receiving delegations of U.S. officials and church people arriving in San Salvador, was transferred to a military tribunal 2 days ago. She is being held in a women's prison in San Salvador.

Casolo said, "I am innocent," when she arrived at the military court aboard an Army vehicle 2 days ago.

The military court will gather evidence for the trial, the result of which Casolo could be sentenced to at least 10 years imprisonment.

Prosecutor Says Church Blocks Murder Inquiry

PA0912002189 San Salvador TCS Television in Spanish 1215 GMT 8 Dec 89

[Text] Salvadoran Prosecutor General Mauricio Colorado has said that the Catholic Church apparently is trying to block an inquiry into the murder of the Jesuit priests of UCA [Central American University].

In a news conference, Colorado reported that, to expedite and reinforce the inquiries into the deaths of the Jesuits, UCA proposed as prosecutor a Catholic lawyer and priest, whom he did not identify. According to Colorado, a church bishop refused to give permission to the priest-lawyer to handle the case. According to Colorado, the Catholic Church seems to be blocking the investigation.

[Begin Colorado recording] As I see it, the church, allegedly interested in the clarification of the incident just as we are, had a golden opportunity to participate in the investigation. Maybe it is not the church, but a bishop who is trying to block the inquiry. There are reports that the Armed Forces perpetrated the assassination. We have asked for proof of this, but have not received any answer. I have tried to designate a prosecutor who is a priest and a lawyer, but I was told at the last minute that the priest has not been given permission. I think these facts must have meaning. Perhaps you will be able to analyze them better than I. [end recording]

Colorado said he hopes the religious professional is given permission so that he can cooperate in the legal proceedings. Concerning the versions that hold the Armed Forces responsible for the murder of the Jesuits Colorado said that, if this is true, some Armed Forces members rather than the institution itself, would be responsible for the crime.

[Begin Colorado recording] The accusation against the Armed Forces sounds strange to me. Such an accusation is somewhat vague and reckless. Anyway, some members could have committed the deed on a personal basis. The

Armed Forces, as such, could not be involved. At most, it could be some Armed Forces members. [end recording]

Finally, Colorado, referring to an alleged document signed by young officers holding the Armed Forces responsible for this crime, said such an accusation is a propaganda and disinformation move with no basis whatever.

FMLN Announces New National Traffic Stoppage

PA0912023289 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 0051 GMT 9 Dec 89

[Text] The Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front [FMLN], over the past few hours, has initiated operations along the country's main highways, freeways such as the Inter-American highway, the coastal highway, and secondary highways throughout the country.

This means that our men, positioned along all highways, have been instructed to strictly enforce the national traffic stoppage. Any vehicle found in transit will be damaged and set on fire. Only those vehicles belonging to humanitarian organizations and the press can circulate, provided they carry their stickers and signs very visibly so that our combatants can recognize them easily.

We expect all drivers to take note of this new situation, which has been in effect over the past few hours.

Opposition Party Reports Detentions, Searches

PA0912001589 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2142 GMT 8 Dec 89

[Text] San Salvador, 8 Dec (ACAN-EFE)—Salvadoran opposition Christian Democratic Party [PDC] sources today reported the detention of two councilmen and the search of the home of a top party leader.

"We are in the beginning of a witch hunt," Ludovico Samayoa, deputy for the PDC, reported. He added: "1st Infantry Brigade members searched the home of a top party leader and tried to capture him today."

Other sources said the leader could be Eduardo Colindres of the PDC Executive Committee and one of the top party leaders.

PDC leaders today met with officers of the Armed Forces Staff to consider the situation created by the search and the detentions.

According to PDC sources, high-ranking military officers "promised they will look into the incident and denied the search warrant originated with the staff."

So far, the Armed Forces Staff has not offered an official version on the interview and the PDC reports.

Aristides Alvarenga, head of the PDC parliamentary faction, said that one of the subjects discussed with the staff was the interpretation of the current state of emergency and the possible extension of the Assembly's term.

"We think abuses were committed because of the poor interpretation of the state of emergency," Alvarenga said.

Samayoa said two PDC councilmen were "captured" in Ilobasco, 55 km San Salvador.

"The government intends to carry out generalized repression to make people afraid and disorganize the party," Samayoa commented.

Moreover, Jorge Villacorta from the leftist Popular Social Christian Movement (MPSC), who was arrested on December 6, said today that he was mistreated by the police and that he had received "threats" urging him to leave the country with his family.

The MPSC makes up the Democratic Convergence, which comprises various leftist civilian forces in El Salvador.

Most opposition leaders from the PDC and the left, have been living away from their usual places of residence since the beginning of the guerrilla offensive on 11 November.

Spokesman Says Opposition Wants Part in Talks

PA1012215589 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1720 GMT 10 Dec 89

[Text] San Salvador, 10 Dec (ACAN-EFE)—A spokesman for the leftist Democratic Convergence [CD] said today that, if the government and the guerrillas restart talks on 20 December, the country's political opposition wants to participate in the talks "so that the people may also contribute in attaining peace."

A source from that political group, which brings together two Social Democratic parties with one Social Christian party and is a member of Socialist International, told ACAN-EFE that these groups "support all initiatives favoring peace."

The spokesman added that "if a dialogue does take place, we want the people, represented by the political parties, to take part in this process that El Salvador needs more than ever today."

The spokesman said that Salvadoran President Alfredo Cristiani's proposal announced yesterday, in which he expresses his willingness to restart the dialogue if the guerrillas stop "their terrorist actions against the civilian population" by 15 December, is "feasible as long as there is a sincere will."

Cristiani's proposal to the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front (FMLN) will be revealed to the Central American presidents during their sixth summit in Costa Rica today. The Salvadoran president expects to receive his colleagues' political support.

The CD believes that Cristiani "does not want to appear warmongering or defiant in Costa Rica, and will bring to San Jose a more marketable proposal that has positive and negative aspects."

"The dialogue that he proposes is feasible and reasonable, but the people must be involved in it," the source pointed out.

He added that the "negative" aspect of the president's proposal is that "it fails to mention the violation of human rights, the arrest and persecution of political leaders, and the state of emergency in force since 12 November."

The political situation in El Salvador has worsened since 11 November, when the guerrillas launched their largest offensive in 10 years of fighting.

Cristiani believes that if the FMLN suspends its hostilities against the civilian population the dialogue could be resumed on 20 December in Caracas and "there would be a solution to the armed conflict" in this country on 20 February 1990.

The guerrillas have not yet replied to the Cristiani proposal, which gave assurances that the rebels are "not being asked to lay down their arms."

In fact, Cristiani noted that he would maintain his willingness to take part in a "dialogue" even if the guerrillas attack positions that are "strictly military. Our sole condition is that they suspend terrorist actions against the civilian population."

The war that began 10 years ago in El Salvador has left more than 70,000 dead.

Defense Ministry Bulletin on Clashes With FMLN

PA1112044889 San Salvador Domestic Service in Spanish 0132 GMT 11 Dec 89

[Defense and Public Security Ministry Press Bulletin No 383; date not given]

[Text] Fighting between Armed Forces troops and FMLN [Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front] terrorist groups in the past 24 hours has left 17 dead subversives and 5 wounded soldiers in various points of the country.

The Belloso Battalion reported that its troops killed 10 terrorists during clashes in the Cantons of San Laureano and San Jose Cortez, Tonacatepeque Municipality, San Salvador Department. Five other FMLN subversives were killed during a clash with 3d Infantry Brigade troops in El Transito, San Miguel. The clash took place when the subversives were trying to escape after having torched ANTEL [National Administration for Telecommunications] offices and the municipal mayor's office in that town.

The 2d Infantry Brigade reported that an extremist was killed during a clash in the vicinity of San Antonio La Bolsa Canton, Metapan Jurisdiction, Santa Ana. Two different caliber rifles and other war materiel were seized there. That brigade also reported that its troops found two AK-47 rifles, 150 cartridges, and material to make explosions that were left behind during a combing operation in Cruz Verde, Santa Ana.

The command of the Armed Forces' Engineers Military Detachment reported that troops combing the vicinity of La Esmeralda Farm, San Vicente, killed a terrorist during a clash with an extremist group that was moving about in the area.

Honduras

Azcona, Cerezo Urge End to 'Ridiculous War'

PA0912214189 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2041 GMT 9 Dec 89

[Text] Tegucigalpa, 9 Dec (ACAN-EFE)—Honduran President Jose Azcona and Guatemalan President Vinicio Cerezo asked their Central American colleagues today "to end the foolish and ridiculous war we are in."

On the eve of the Central American presidential summit, which opens in Costa Rica on 10 December, Azcona and Cerezo were both guests at the graduation of 100 agronomists from the Pan-American School of Agriculture.

At the school 36 km east of Tegucigalpa, Cerezo voiced the hope that the summit will be able to achieve "a political solution that will prevent more destruction in Central America."

"We are experiencing a futile, senseless war in which the Central Americans are assuming the role of buyers of weapons to kill one another," Cerezo said. Cerezo stressed the hope that a political decision will emerge so that all the sectors aspiring to reach power will agree "to do so through the path of votes, instead of resorting to violence."

For his part, President Azcona insisted that the consolidation of peace "is the most sensible measure the presidents can promote."

Azcona stressed the necessity of creating the necessary conditions to "approve integration projects that will permit the region to face common problems."

The two presidents plan to travel together this afternoon to San Jose, Costa Rica, where the sixth Central American summit opens tomorrow.

Lopez Contreras on Summit, Regional Conflicts

PA0812122089 Tegucigalpa Voz de Honduras Network in Spanish 1145 GMT 7 Dec 89

[Interview with Foreign Minister Carlos Lopez Contreras by Rodolfo Colindres Herazo; place and date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Lopez] The presidents and foreign ministers meeting will have an agenda in accordance with the interests of each country and government. From the Honduran viewpoint, the agenda should include topics whose discussion would lead to a solution to the two conflicts currently shaking Central America. The most active of these conflicts is the one involving the Salvadoran rebels against the government. No less important is the conflict in Nicaragua between the Sandinists and the armed opposition. This type of conflict has repercussions in neighboring countries, such as the displacement of refugees, poverty, and capital flight, all of which affect normal relations between states. You know that the relations between the Salvadoran and Nicaraguan Governments have been suspended because the Salvadoran Government has accused Nicaragua of aiding the Salvadoran guerrillas with Soviet weapons.

[Colindres] Will a preliminary foreign ministers' meeting be held prior to the summit?

[Lopez] We will hold a special meeting with the five foreign ministers on 9 December to seek ways to give new impetus to and crystallize the peace effort.

[Colindres] Where will this preliminary meeting be held?

[Lopez] In San Jose.

[Colindres] The presidents and foreign ministers have met several times. In the end, however, nothing positive has come from it. What do you have to say about this?

[Lopez] We have to find solutions to the two conflicts I have mentioned. Not all of the parties involved in this problem are present. We have to locate them first.

[Colindres] We are interested in a particular subject. Why will Rafael Leonardo Callejas not go to this meeting, even though he is the Honduran president-elect? He should become very familiar with the Central American situation.

[Lopez] I think he understands the situation thoroughly. He has access to the information provided by the government's several sources in the transition stage. We must keep in mind that in Honduras there is only one president at a time.

[Colindres] Will you remain in your position as foreign minister for 2 more years?

[Lopez] There is nothing to this at all.

[Colindres] Would you be willing to cooperate (?when and if) you are called upon again?

[Lopez] Perhaps, but I do not think it would be in (?a diplomatic) position.

[Colindres] [Words indistinct].

[Lopez] There are many forms of cooperation. One could cooperate even in private life.

[Colindres] Have you talked with Callejas about this?

[Lopez] No, I have not.

[Colindres] Who will accompany President Azcona and his delegation on the trip to Costa Rica?

[Lopez] Flores Bermudez of the Foreign Ministry, two Armed Forces advisers, myself, and maybe someone else from the presidential palace.

[Colindres] Do you expect positive results from this meeting?

[Lopez] That depends on the results of the preliminary meeting. The situation is not easy. The climate is not good. It is similar to the one in Tela. The situation has worsened as the result of both the military offensive launched by the guerrillas in El Salvador, which has resulted in many dead because the confrontation occurred in the center of the capital, and the breaking of relations between El Salvador and Nicaragua. In addition, the negotiations between the Sandinist government and the armed opposition have not led to what we expected: the repatriation, disbanding, and relocation of the contras in other countries [words indictinct].

[Colindres] Minister Lopez Contreras, what will the Honduran position be regarding Daniel Ortega's stance that by 31 December the contras must be demobilized in Honduras?

[Lopez] Honduras would have liked to have seen all the contras demobilized and repatriated many months ago. However, this is not up to us. It is a political problem with some international ramifications beyond Honduras' control. I think that the main actors, who are not always in Central America, should participate more to help bring peace to the area.

[Colindres] Are you referring to the U.S. Government?

[Lopez] I beg your pardon?

[Colindres] Do you mean that the U.S. Government is responsible for defining the departure of the contras?

[Lopez] The U.S. Government has already made an important contribution, from the moment the flow of military or so-called lethal aid for the contras was suspended. The contras' military actions have practically stopped. However, what has not ceased and instead has increased lately—everybody knows this—is the flow of military aid to the Farabundo National Liberation Front [FMLN] in El Salvador, which has resulted in the intensification of military operations.

[Colindres] What do you think of Salvadoran President Cristiani's position? He has said he will defend the Salvadoran position and attack President Daniel Ortega?

[Lopez] I think he has every right to do that, if he feels hurt.

[Colindres] Do you think, however, that a confrontation of that nature would contribute to a Central American meeting for peace?

[Lopez] The confrontation exists. One side feels hurt and protests to the other. That is why relations were suspended. However, there is a willingness to meet again.

[Colindres] President Azcona has announced that he will meet with [Guatemalan President] Vinicio Cerezo here in our country, specifically in the community of Zambrano, prior to the San Jose meeting. Have you any knowlege of this?

[Lopez] Yes, I understand that he will be coming on a private visit. However, he will probably meet with President Azcona, who will be leaving for San Jose on 9 December.

[Colindres] Will Honduras make any specific proposals at the San Jose presidential summit?

[Lopez] We will go to that summit with a conciliatory position, and will try to help our friends and neighbors who are still in conflict to solve their differences.

[Colindres] What do you expect from the [words indistinct] forces currently in Honduras?

[Lopez] The deployment of ONUCA [UN Observer Group in Central America] forces in Honduras from our point of view is aimed, first of all, at protecting Honduras from the deployment of irregular forces seeking refuge in Honduras. Second, it will encourage the departure of irregular forces, of all such groups. Third, it will show that Honduras does not want to attack any country or even to be used as a haven. However, political solutions must be found in countries facing armed conflicts and violence, and those who seek refuge in Honduras should leave.

[Colindres] Do you think ONUCA or the United Nations, which it represents, has the necessary political force to resolve the problem regarding the contras stationed in Honduras, who should have already been disarmed and dismantled by 5 December?

[Lopez] This will not be achieved immediately. However, the presence of the United Nations, of military observers, is an expression of the international community, of the international community's moral force, which I think will give the message that Honduras is a country that needs this international presence so that its territory will not be used by any faction in Central America.

[Colindres] [words indistinct] any other force preventing the implementation of the agreements [words indistinct]?

[Lopez] I believe so.

Government Protests Resumption of Nicaraguan Suit

PA0912024589 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0010 GMT 9 Dec 89

[Text] Tegucigalpa, 8 Dec (ACAN-EFE)—The Honduran Government protested today the resumption of the suit that Nicaragua filed against Honduras before the International Court of Justice [ICJ] in 1987. The suit was suspended last August on the condition that the contras on Honduran territory would be demobilized.

In an official communique, the Honduran Foreign Ministry said that "the attitude taken by Nicaragua, which was announced today, aggravates the Central American situation" and added that it will continue its legal defense against the suit.

In June 1987, Nicaragua legally accused Costa Rica and Honduras of lending their territories for anti-Sandinist groups to set up their armed camps there.

The suit against Costa Rica was resolved bilaterally, but the one against Honduras continued until the most recent Central American summit, when Nicaragua temporarily suspended it and made its dismissal contingent upon compliance with the agreements for demobilizing the contras scheduled for 5 December.

Regarding charges of noncompliance with the agreement signed at the last summit, the Honduran Foreign Ministry said that demobilization "requires more than the 3 months the Central American presidents granted to the International Support and Verification Commission (CIAV).

CIAV is a joint UN and OAS organization created as a result of a request made by the Central American presidents to implement their peace agreements.

In its communique, the Honduran Foreign Ministry says that CIAV requested an extension of the deadline for demobilization and that "CIAV has not even sent the final report on its work to the Central American countries."

In conclusion, the Honduran authorities describe the Nicaraguan decision "made just before the Central American summit" to be held in San Jose, Costa Rica, as "an unfriendly step."

Merchant Marine Eases Flag Registry Regulations

PA1012030189 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1652 GMT 6 Dec 89

[Text] Tegucigalpa, 6 Dec (ACAN-EFE)—The state-owned Honduran merchant marine offered today to ease the Honduran flag registry regulations, thus enabling all Panamanian-flagged vessels to change their registry and be able to enter U.S. ports.

Honduran authorities wish to attract 50 percent of the 12,000 Panamanian-registered ships which beginning in

February will be banned from U.S. ports as a result of a prohibition announced by the White House last week.

The U.S. ban on Panamanian-registered vessels is one of the sanctions imposed by Washington to oust Panama's "strongman," General Manuel Antonio Noriega. It is estimated that the new U.S. sanction will cause losses close to $40 million to the Panamanian Government, and a similar amount to private companies, especially Panamanian law firms, who registered the ships.

The Honduran merchant marine, under the control of the Honduran Armed Forces, has offered international shipping companies its registry to replace Panamanian registry.

To this end, the offer includes registration in 24 hours, a registration charge of $0.25 per net ton, and an annuity of $0.50 per net ton.

In addition, it offers as a guarantee of stability "the close alliance existing between Honduras and the United States, with no foreseeable changes on the horizon."

The only requirements asked of possible applicants are that the ships have a minimum weight of 500 tons, that they present a bill of sale and an audit certificate, and that they be represented by Honduran lawyers.

Nominally, the Honduran merchant marine is already one of the largest in the world with 1,500 registered ships.

Nicaragua

Ortega Says U.S. Trying To Dictate UN Work

PA0912215889 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2037 GMT 9 Dec 89

[Text] Managua, 9 Dec (ACAN-EFE)—Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega Saavedra announced today that he has instructed Foreign Minister Miguel D'Escoto to criticize before the UN Security Council U.S. plans to "supervise" the UN's work of observing the Nicaraguan electoral process. The Nicaraguan president said the United States is trying to "distort" the electoral process and wants to "use" the United Nations through its "interventionist, terrorist, and disrespectful policy" toward the Sandinist revolution.

Speaking today in Rama Cay, a town in the country's southern Atlantic region, Ortega lashed out at Washington for wanting to "dictate to the United Nations" the work it must do as observer of the Nicaraguan election process that will conclude on 25 February.

Observers from the United Nations, the OAS, the Carter Center headed by former U.S. President Jimmy Carter, the Washington-based "Center for Democracy," and the European Parliament are monitoring the February elections.

Ortega's reaction came 1 day after John Bolton, the U.S. assistant secretary of state for international organization affairs, sent a letter to Elliot Richardson, head of the UN observer team in Nicaragua, to inform him of attacks directed by the Managua government against the opposition.

Ortega was irked because the top White House official "was going to establish direct links" with Richardson to "monitor" the Nicaraguan elections. The Nicaraguan Government "is criticizing before the international community the U.S. policy of arrogance and abuse" against the United Nations, Ortega noted, adding that the U.S. Government must not "dictate to the United Nations how it must work, and also, it is not the job of the UN Security Council to monitor the Nicaraguan elections."

The Nicaraguan Government announced last month it was denying visas and credentials to members of an observer mission appointed by the U.S. Congress to monitor the elections. The Sandinists made that decision after the U.S. Congress approved more funds for the "contras" stationed in Honduras.

Ortega on U.S. Representative's Attitude at UN

PA0912011489 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 0004 GMT 9 Dec 89

[Report on speech by President Daniel Ortega in Bluefields on 8 December]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] [Begin Ortega recording, in progress] Here in Bluefields, I want to describe the attitude adopted by the Yankee representative at the United Nations today as a sign of disrespect for the United Nations.

That attitude must be condemned not only by the Nicaraguan people, but by the international community. I am sure they [the United States] will not have any support, just as they have not had any support when they have adopted similar attitudes in the past. [end recording]

[Reporter] As part of his campaign tour for next year's elections, President Ortega will inaugurate a housing project of 60 houses built with the support of our Cuban comrades and various other projects in Bluefields tomorrow.

The Nicaraguan Government delegation will return to Managua at noon tomorrow after having completed the exhausting working tour in Bluefields to get ready for 10 December when the Central American summit will begin.

Ortega Campaigns in Bluefields, Cites Rebuilding

PA0812183089 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 1716 GMT 8 Dec 89

[Text] Managua, 8 Dec (DPA)—President Daniel Ortega travelled today to the city of Bluefields on the Nicaraguan Atlantic Coast on a 2-day campaign tour of the area. He will dedicate several projects, including 50 housing units built by a brigade of Cuban workers. Danny Ortega is accompanied on his tour to Bluefields by reporters and government officials. He plans to meet with several sectors in the area, especially with religious groups who have much influence on the Atlantic Coast residents.

During his administration, Ortega has placed special emphasis on maintaining good relations with Christian sectors. In the last few years there has been a decrease in tensions and confrontations between the Catholic leaders and the Sandinist government.

President Ortega is also presidential candidate for the Sandinist National Liberation Front (FSLN) in the February 1990 elections. He will preside over the inauguration of "Radio Zinica's" transmission equipment and other reconstruction projects in the city of Bluefields, almost destroyed in October 1988 by Hurricane "Joan."

In 13 months much of the city has been rebuilt, especially the public utilities and the fishing industry. The Cuban Government assigned a 300-man brigade to build 1,000 housing units. It was reported that 50 of these units will be officially delivered to President Ortega to be turned over to the residents.

Early on 10 December, Ortega will go to Costa Rica to attend the meeting of the Central American Presidents, dealing with the demobilization of the Nicaraguan contras still in Honduras, and the Salvadoran conflict, which has worsened in the last few weeks.

Notes U.S. Economic Unfairness

PA0912023489 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0047 GMT 9 Dec 89

[Text] Managua, 8 Dec (ACAN-EFE)—Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega said today that efforts will be made at the Central American summit this weekend in Costa Rica "to stop the assassination of priests and the bombing of the people in El Salvador and to carry out the demobilization of the contras."

During a political rally in Bluefields, on Nicaragua's Atlantic coast, Ortega spoke of the "special" meeting of Central American presidents that will be held on 10-11 December in San Jose. According to Sandinist estimates, more than 10,000 people attended the rally.

In this city in eastern Nicaragua, where Ortega continued his election campaign, the president praised Cuban President Fidel Castro for helping the victims of Hurricane Joan, which destroyed the town of Bluefields in October 1988.

Ortega also lashed out at U.S. President George Bush "for not treating Nicaragua fairly and for not leaving it alone."

Ortega said that in October, during the summit of Latin American presidents in Costa Rica, he confronted the U.S. President and that "the Latin American presidents told Bush that the people of this region are dying as a result of the economic crisis and that they demand fair treatment from the United States."

"In reply to this demand, Bush said the United States has the biggest foreign debt and the highest fiscal deficit and that it did not have a cent. He did not give any hope to Latin America," Ortega stressed.

"The truth is that we Nicaraguans do not need to wait for others to come to solve our problem, because we ourselves must solve the economic crisis," the Sandinist leader said.

Ortega said that he recently met with bishops of the U.S. Episcopal Church.

"I was taken by surprise when I learned that the bishop that I had on my right was the clergyman who performs religious services for Bush, and this bishop told me that he has already counseled Bush to stop waging war on Nicaragua and to treat it fairly."

The Nicaraguan president also said that Fidel Castro ordered the construction of 1,000 "totally free" houses for the people in Bluefields whose homes had been destroyed by the hurricane.

"Fidel does this because he feels affection for the Nicaraguan people and because he wants to help the people of Bluefields. He is not campaigning for the Nicaraguan presidency," Ortega said.

The Sandinist leader lashed out at the U.S. Government, the contras, and the Nicaraguan political opposition, whose spokesmen launched an international campaign, charging that the Cubans in Bluefields were soldiers who had come to militarize Bluefields.

Ortega denied that there are Cuban troops in Bluefields, and he explained that there are 300 Cuban construction workers who are building the 1,000 houses.

Tinoco on UN Observers, Contra Demobilization

PA1012214389 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 1920 GMT 10 Dec 89

[Text] San Jose, 10 Dec (DPA)—Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega Saavedra will ask his Central American counterparts meeting in San Jose for 2 days that the forces designated by the United Nations to patrol the area's borders participate in the demobilization of the contras remaining in Honduras. Vice Foreign Minister Victor Hugo Tinoco said at the opening of the Central American summit at the installations of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA), located 5 km away from San Jose, that the mandate of ONUCA [UN Observer Group in Central America] must be extended from performing a patrolling mission to performing a demobilization mission.

Tinoco noted that the Nicaraguan proposal to the Central American presidents addresses the immediate demobilization of the 12,000 anti-Sandinists who are in Honduras and that the repatriation, which the Tela accords had set for 5 December, take place at a later date. The Nicaraguan diplomat stated the contra demobilization was not achieved in the time set by the area presidents because the U.S. Administration opposed it, feeling that the process can be achieved after 25 December [date as received], the date of general elections in Nicaragua.

Tinoco also said the Sandinist government would not object to U.S. and USSR monitoring of the borders, provided all the other Central American countries request it. On the Salvadoran situation, Tinoco stated that it is a domestic problem and that El Salvador's break of diplomatic relations with Nicaragua is of no importance. He added the Salvadoran Government is not interested in holding a dialogue with the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front (FMLN), as the Sandinist government has with the contras.

The official announced President Daniel Ortega will give further details of the Nicaraguan proposal in the next hours. Ortega arrived this morning in San Jose by land in a motorcade of several vehicles, including two buses leased to a Panamanian company. Ortega arrived 1 hour late to the opening of the meeting, so he postponed a news conference until after the first working session with the Central American presidents.

Salvadoran President Alfredo Cristiani, Guatemalan President Vinicio Cerezo, and Honduran President Jose Azcona have been in San Jose since yesterday to attend the extraordinary meeting of Central American presidents, hosted by Costa Rican President Oscar Arias, to discuss as most important the contra demobilization and the Salvadoran conflict.

Contras To Ask Presidents To Pressure Ortega

PA0812145489 Panama City ACAN in Spanish
1357 GMT 8 Dec 89

[Text] Tegucigalpa, 8 Dec (ACAN - EFE)—The Nicaraguan contras will ask the Central American presidents to pressure Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega that he "fulfills the pledges made" on the Central American peace agreements, it was reported in Tegucigalpa on 7 December by the anti-Sandinist commander known as "Franklin."

The Central American presidents will meet in San Jose, Costa Rica on 10 and 11 December to discuss the demobilization of the contras camped in Honduras, the internal situation in Nicaragua, and the war in El Salvador, it was revealed by a Honduran Government spokesman.

Commander "Franklin" told the media that "the most important achievement of the summit would be the adoption of a specific position to force Ortega to fulfill his pledges."

Three diplomatic sources consulted by ACAN-EFE agreed that the contras want the presidents to focus their attention on the internal political situation in Nicaragua and the war in El Salvador so that the demobilization is not discussed in depth.

Daniel Ortega has announced that he will propose to the other presidents that the contras be demobilized on 31 December. The demobilization should have been done 5 December as stated by the presidents in the Tela (Honduras) summit.

Presidential Candidate Foresees Ortega Defeat

PM0812104989 Madrid DIARIO 16 in Spanish
17 Nov 89 p 22

[Interview with presidential candidate Violeta Chamorro by Javier Carvallo in Madrid; date not given]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] [Carvallo] Do the Nicaraguan people really feel disillusioned with the Sandinistas?

[Chamorro] Of course, of course they are. The proof lies in the enormous exodus from Nicaragua. Over half a million people have left the country—over 12 percent of the population. Those people have already voted with their feet, as we say over there. Moreover, there are the opinion polls. Only 30 percent remain loyal to Ortega.

[Carvallo] Nicaragua is apparently hungry for change.

[Chamorro] For change and for food. The country is undergoing an economic crisis leading it to a really grave situation. Inflation is unstoppable, and the currency is being devalued daily. The current exchange rate is 42,000 cordobas to the dollar, and a soft drink costs 48,000 cordobas (180 pesetas). A worker needs several jobs to feed his family. What has become of the revolution for the people? If a government cannot run an economy, it does not deserve to be a government. If, after 10 years of receiving the financial aid they have received—many billions of dollars—the Sandinistas have not been unable to run Nicaragua's economy, they do not deserve to govern.

[Carvallo] Yet the coalition of 14 opposition parties you represent seems to have no financial problems. Specifically, the Bush administration has promised you a large sum.

[Chamorro] No aid has arrived so far, and I would like to explain to you that when it arrives, it will be not solely for the National Opposition Union [UNO]; it will begin with the Supreme Electoral Council and reach as far as those who will supervise the elections. It is a matter of $2 million (240 million pesetas) to be used for the process of checking registration, training election supervisors, civic education—in short, to guarantee a fair and democratic process. That aid cannot be used for an election campaign; it is forbidden by law. It will not be used to promote the UNO's ideas.

[Carvallo] What institutions will supervise the elections?

[Chamorro] The United Nations and the OAS have already sent delegations to Managua. The attendance of former President Carter, with his team of over 100 people, and of a commission of European parliamentarians has also been confirmed. We are inviting all the democratic governments in the world, and especially those of Europe. The greater the surveillance, the better for all Nicaraguans. What we want is for the people to decide their future, without impositions. We do not want the current government or any foreign power to decide it.

[Carvallo] Are you perhaps referring to Cuba?

[Chamorro] Cuba or any other country. We believe that the people are now adult. Just as you believe that the democratic system is the best for your countries, we believe the same thing. The Salvadorans [as published] must decide whether to continue with the current totalitarian regime for another 6 years or whether they want a change.

[Carvallo] Will the exiles, including the contras, be able to vote?

[Chamorro] The registration deadline has now passed, and they will not be able to do so. Ortega has not kept his word. He has not given the Nicaraguans outside the country the opportunity to vote for him or for any other candidate.

[Carvallo] Do you support the contras?

[Chamorro] No, sir: Look, the contras are Nicaraguans who left their country because they were at odds with the Sandinist government, and some of them belonged to the party itself. They have already been given an opportunity, because the war has been at a standstill for 2 years, but the Sandinist Front does not wish to acknowledge it. I heard on the radio just now that the talks between the Contras and the government have been suspended until next week, and this means weakness on Ortega's part, because it could be settled in a day in Nicaragua itself, and right now they are in Washington. Even Cardinal Obando is there—thank goodness!—because this is wonderful. We have a Catholic, apostolic and Roman church, and a cardinal who is an estimable man.

[Carvallo] A tragic situation is being experienced in El Salvador. Does Ortega have any connection with the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front [FMLN]?

[Chamorro] There is a relationship of solidarity between the Sandinist Front and the FMLN, which it supports not just morally but with military aid. Ortega is eager to lead the whole of Central America into an armed conflict.

[Carvallo] When will perestroyka reach the Caribbean?

[Chamorro] Fidel Castro and Daniel Ortega are being left out on a limb in championing Marxism-Leninism, because East Europe is changing, as has been seen with the miracle of the Berlin Wall. Ortega will fall next 25 February, and Castro could do so at any time, just as the wall fell in just a few days. [Passage omitted]

UNO 'Vandals' Set Sandinist Center on Fire

PA1112003889 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1933 GMT 10 Dec 89

[Text] This is an urgent report. Armed vandals of the pro-Yankee coalition—the so-called National Opposition Union [UNO]—have set the Sandinist National Liberation Front [FSLN] campaign center in Masatepe on fire. The vandalism took place during a demonstration that concluded about 30 minutes ago in Masatepe, where the candidates of the pro-Yankee coalition could not even gather enough people to cover three blocks of the town.

The candidates first threw stones at the FSLN campaign center in Masatepe. The vandals—who were armed with machetes and big sticks—threw the furniture of Mr Francisco Ramirez who lives next door to the campaign center out into the streets and burned it. The vandals then took the burning furniture and threw it inside the FSLN center, immediately setting it on fire. A jeep that was parked near the FSLN center was also destroyed by the UNO vandals. They first broke all the windows of the vehicle and then set it on fire. The UNO vandals did this because they were rejected by the Masatepe people. FSLN spokesmen have said they will immediately file charges before the Supreme Electoral Council [CSE].

A Masatepe resident who witnessed the outrages, Melba Ramirez Flores, told us that a UNO member was apparently killed in the incident.

[Managua Domestic Service in Spanish at 2245 GMT on 10 December carries a similar report on the incident, adding that "13 persons were injured as a result of the criminal attack by the former National Guard-UNO members, who also burned a vehicle owned by the Food and Agriculture Organization." The report also says that "no one has been arrested, according to the police who are investigating the incident," and adds that this case has been "clearly seen by OAS and UN observers, who noticed the provocation by the National Guard-UNO members."]

UNO Candidates Resign To Protest Somozism

PA0912032389 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1200 GMT 5 Dec 89

[Text] Two more UNO [National Opposition Union] right-wing coalition candidates yesterday presented their official resignations before the Supreme Electoral Council [CSE], to protest the Somozist and counterrevolutionary composition of that alliance. After tendering their resignation to candidate Violeta Chamorro Barrios and her portable [portatil] on 3 December in Buenos Aires, Rivas Department, Miguel Angel Arevelo yesterday went to the CSE to make his decision official and end his candidacy for the post of municipal councilman.

Arevalo said he is an old opposition fighter who accompanied [slain newspaper editor] Pedro Joaquin Chamorro in the struggle against Somozism, was a founder of the Patriotic Youth group, and participated in UDEL [Democratic Union of Liberation] activities.

Arevalo is not just renouncing his candidacy as councilman, nominated by the pro-National Guard coalition, he is also giving up his militancy in the Conservative Party to devote himself henceforth to his shoe store and agricultural activities. His brother, Edgar Alejandro Arevalo, also publicly resigned his posts as PLI [Independent Liberal Party] vice president in Rivas Department and in UNO's departmental secretariat, because Rivas is being directed by, as he said, good-for-nothing people and former National Guardsmen. Among the people Edgar Alejandro Arevalo mentioned is (William Lawen), a well-known former National Guardsman who uses UNO funds to organize orgies and promote drunkenness and loafing. Although [PLI President] Virgilio Godoy was informed about all this, he did nothing about it.

Another person who resigned the pro-U.S. alliance is Raul Bello Cordero. He was nominated without being asked as a councilman candidate in Esquipulas, Matagalpa Department. Bello Cordero said: When asked if I would run as a councilman candidate, I said no, but I got a big surprise when I saw my name on the list published in the newspapers.

2 More Candidates Resign

PA0912225589 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1200 GMT 7 Dec 89

[Text] The disarray of the UNO [National Opposition Union] candidates continues. Two candidates for councilman in Region 4 have resigned because they reject the UNO's ties to National Guardsmen and the contras.

Marcial Alvarado, candidate for councilman in San Jorge in Rivas Department, filed his official resignation after rejecting the UNO's pro-U.S. policy and its alliance with killers. Alvarado's resignation prompted an unexpected visit to that department by national leaders Constantino Acevedo and Carlos Hurtado, who unsuccessfully tried to dissuade the former candidate. The two leaders also met with businessman Ronald Aviles to discuss the likelihood of removing the PLI [Independent Liberal Party] candidate for deputy William Lawrence, a well-known Somozist guardsman who goes by the nickname of Negro William.

Guillermo Nunez Escobar, candidate for councilman in Jinotega Department, went to the regional Supreme Electoral Tribunal offices yesterday to disassociate himself from the UNO because he was not consulted before being nominated. Nunez Escobar said he will stick to his resignation although some UNO leaders offered him some money, which he turned down. He also denied having any ties to guardsmen and contras.

Panama

Protocol on Trade Talks With USSR Signed

PA0812212489 Panama City LA REPUBLICA DOMINICAL in Spanish 3 Dec 89 p 7-A

["Protocol of Panamanian-USSR Talks" signed by Gustavo Gonzalez, Panamanian planning and economic policy minister, and Aleksandr I. Kachanov, Soviet first deputy minister of foreign economic relations, in Moscow on 16 November]

[Text] Panamanian-Soviet talks for economic and commercial relations were held 13-16 November, inclusive, in Moscow.

The Panamanian delegation was headed by Gustavo Gonzalez, planning and political policy minister, and the Soviet delegation was headed by Aleksandr I. Kachanov, first deputy minister of foreign economic relations of the USSR. Also participating in the talks were Elmo Martinez, Panamanian commerce and industries minister, and Vladimir N. Burmistrov, Soviet deputy minister of foreign economic relations.

During its stay in Moscow, the Panamanian delegation met with Vyacheslav Sychev, secretary general of the CEMA Secretariat; Nikolay P. Tsaj, deputy minister of the USSR Ministry of the Maritime Fleet; Mikhail Timofeyev, deputy minister of the USSR Ministry of Civil Aviation; Yuriy Moskovskiy, chairman of the Bank for Foreign Economic Activity; as well as heads of the national enterprises for foreign economic relations, including: Energomasheksport [exporters of equipment for thermal and hydroelectrical power stations]; Tekhnoeksport [supplies aid and equipment in prospecting for oil, gas, and other mineral deposits; construction of factories for light and medical industries, infirmaries, hospitals, high schools, colleges, and skilled labor training centers]; Sel'khozpromeksport [supplies aid to agricultural enterprises for the construction of hydrotechnical and irrigation projects, grain elevators, flour mills, bakeries, confectionary factories, food processing plants, wood-working industries, microbiological industry enterprises, and medical preparations for veterinary service]; and Prodintorg [export and import of meat, fish, and dairy products; sugar and vegetable oils; sport and meat animals].

During the talks, the two parties reasserted their mutual desire to sponsor activities aimed at identifying the guidelines, perspectives, and most efficient ways of perfecting and diversifying the structure of products for bilateral trade to their mutual advantage—based on the export possibilities and import needs of Panama and the USSR.

The Soviet delegation outlined the reorganization of the USSR's foreign economic relations, emphasizing that the diversity of its participants creates additional possibilities for increasing bilateral economic-commercial cooperation.

The Panamanian delegation outlined the favorable possibilities offered by the Colon Free Zone for supplying Soviet merchandise, including those intended for re-export to other countries in the region. The delegation emphasized that, if necessary, the Colon Free Zone could also be used to store cargo from Latin American countries. This way the cargo could be carried more efficiently to the USSR.

The Panamanian delegation advocated the creation of Panama's commercial representation in the USSR and the USSR's commercial representation in Panama, as stated in the commercial agreement, with the intention of sponsoring their commercial relations. Panama has already proposed Dr. C. Jimenez for that post and he is prepared to assume the role of representative as soon as the arrangements can be made.

The Soviet delegation indicated that the services of the commercial counselor of the USSR Embassy in Costa Rica will be used in this phase, as in previous ones. The creation of the USSR's commercial representation in Panama will be discussed later on, taking into consideration specific sectors, volumes, and perspectives of development in the bilateral economic-commercial cooperation.

Several specific bilateral trade issues were discussed. The Soviet delegation reported the results of studies conducted by Soviet foreign trade associations concerning economic relations with foreign countries and the interest shown by Panamanian organizations and companies in Soviet products in the past. The Panamanian delegation submitted a list of products offered by Panamanian export companies (including sugar, cane, and other products) for consideration.

The national foreign trade associations "Energomasheksport," "Sel'khozpromeksport," and "Tekhnoeksport," which are in charge of foreign economic relations, discussed possible supplies of machinery and equipment for private and public investment projects in Panama, especially the construction and supply of hydroelectric equipment to the Teribe-Changuinola Complex on the Esti River, railway rehabilitation, and construction of electrical transmission lines. They also discussed the construction and expansion of ports and the Panama-Arraijan Highway, dam construction, canals and channelling water for agricultural irrigation and drainage systems according to MIDA's [Agricultural Development Ministry] project for the rehabilitation of irrigation systems, and the full exploitation of sugarcane waste pulp and citrus fruit by-products.

It was agreed that a Soviet technical mission will visit Panama no later than the first trimester of 1990 to continue in-depth studies and draft more specific bilateral cooperation plans, including imports, exports, re-exports, equipment supply, construction and investment projects, and terms of financing.

The Panamanian delegation accepted a proposal to discuss the possibility of signing an agreement concerning Soviet supply of machinery and equipment to Panama under a deferred payment plan. It was agreed that initial talks on this subject could be held in Panama during the Soviet technical mission's visit.

The delegations discussed possible maritime navigation cooperation and its prospects.

The Panamanian delegation proposed studying the possible participation of the Soviet merchant marine fleet in establishing in Panama a transshipment point for cargo headed for Latin America and for centers that repair Soviet ships.

During discussions on cooperation in the area of fishing, the Soviet Ministry of the Fish Industry expressed interest in studying the possibility of sending a group of independent experts to promote cooperation that would lead to increasing the presence of the Soviet fishing fleet in Panama.

It was agreed to soon establish the place and date for the signing of an agreement memorandum between the USSR's Ministry of Civil Aviation and Panama's Civil Aviation General Directorate on irregular flights between the USSR and Panama, and to begin talks to negotiate and sign an agreement on aerial communications between the two countries.

16 November 1989, Moscow

Gustavo R. Gonzalez, Panamanian minister of planning and economic policy

Aleksandr I. Kachanov, Soviet first deputy minister of foreign economic relations

Head of Trade Mission to USSR Appointed

PA0812142489 Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA in Spanish 8 Dec 89 P 32

[Text] The National Government has appointed Carlos E. Jimenez as head of the Panamanian commercial mission in the USSR.

He was appointed through Decree 200 of 7 December 1989, signed by President Francisco Rodriguez and Foreign Minister Leonardo Kam.

The appointment is in line with the government's implementation of the trade agreement signed between Panama and the USSR, which was approved by the former National Legislative Commission.

A Panamanian delegation headed by Gustavo Gonzalez, minister of Planning and Economic Policy has recently visited the USSR. The two countries agreed to establish trade missions as soon as possible.

Meanwhile, it was reported that a USSR trade delegation will visit Panama in January 1989.

Attorney General Views U.S. 'Economic Crimes'

PA0912041389 Panama City CRITICA in Spanish 1 Dec 89 p 10

[Article by Caridad Lafita Navarro]

[Text] "This is a legal meeting and among the topics that will be discussed are economic crimes. I have a report on a new situation in which a government, the U.S. Government, has publicly instigated the perpetration of economic crimes."

Thus spoke Panamanian Attorney General Carlos Villalaz when he was interviewed by this newspaper during a brief recess from Criminology '89, the international meeting under way at the convention palace in Panama City.

Villalaz said there are U.S. companies in Panama that the Yankee government has banned from paying taxes and from giving the Panamanian Government the sums withheld from Panamanian employees for income taxes and social security.

"A few days ago, the figure was estimated at $1.5 billion, and to that we must add the sums withheld from canal employees, and the payment of quotas for the interoceanic waterway."

He also added that the United States, in addition to waging a psychological war, is instigating the perpetration of a crime, which would lead to the death of Gen. Manuel Antonio Noriega, that is internationally condemned.

"We have several lawsuits against CIA officials, including one who was arrested during the period prior to the elections because he was involved in the clandestine transmission of biased news and in interference with local radio stations, which is a crime against Panama's state security.

He said: "There are two stages in a Panamanian worker's life. Government employees continue to receive their paychecks, sometimes with a certain delay because of the country's lack of revenue resulting from the nonpayment of taxes by Panamanian companies that respond to the interests of the United States and by those that had to shut down because of the crisis. [quotation marks as published]

"However, employees are still working," he added, "and no one has been dismissed because we believe that if people are dismissed, there will be a greater imbalance, since their basic needs cannot be met and a social problem of enormous consequences is created. [no closing quotes as published]

"Private enterprise, however, has dismissed workers for many reasons. Now the government is promoting new solutions so private capital is invested and used for development."

Villalaz said Panama's situation should be discussed at a UN and Third World conference, because "certain governments at the OAS have been subjected to rigorous pressure by the United States and we have evidence of that. [no closing quotes as published]

"We have drafted a lawsuit for the International Court of Justice at The Hague, but for it to be successful," he said, "we have to make governments aware of our situation, otherwise things will continue as they are now."

Official Comments on Cisneros, Maxwell Summons

PA0812210389 Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 2314 GMT 4 Dec 89

[Text] Ancon Corregimiento Representative Jorge Isaac Chandeck has said that the chiefs of the U.S. Southern Command will become fugitives from Panamanian justice if they do not comply with the summons issued by the Ancon Police Magistrate Court. The summons are the result of an accusation filed by Chandeck. Chandeck stated that the second summons was delivered to them today.

[Begin recording] [Chandeck] At 1100 this morning, Ancon Police Magistrate Alex Jaen met with and delivered to the Panama Defense Forces Military Provost Major Rodriguez, the second summons issued against Marc Cisneros and Mr. Thurman of the U.S. Army.

This is the second summons. If they fail to respond by 1000 tomorrow morning, the third summons will be issued in accordance with the Panamanian laws. If those gentlemen fail to appear before the Panamanian authorities by 1000 on Wednesday, 6 December, they will automatically become fugitives from Panamanian justice.

[Reporter] Honorable Chandeck, what is the purpose of the accusation presented before the Ancon Police Magistrate Court? The community knows that the Panamanian authorities cannot arrest those two men.

[Chandeck] We know that it is very difficult to arrest them, for obvious reasons. However, it is important to note that the United States Government, from Reagan to Bush, has used all kinds of tricks to make General Manuel Antonio Noriega a fugitive from U.S. justice. The U.S. Government, however, has not presented any kind of evidence against Gen. Noriega and it will be unable to do so, because it has neither a case nor any evidence to present.

In the accusation I presented before the Ancon Police Magistrate, I have included over 16 cases of U.S. Army violations on Panamanian territory here in the Ancon area. We have over 1,500 documents and testimonials that we can present as evidence, not only before Panamanian courts, but before any court in the world.

Thus, the Panamanian people should know that although it is difficult to arrest those gentlemen, those gentlemen will certainly become fugitives from Panamanian justice, because their arrogance will prevent them from appearing before Panamanian authorities. Their appearance before Panamanian courts would remove part of their so-called military might and arrogance.

You can be certain that those gentlemen will become fugitives from Panamanian justice just like any other common individual, because they are generals in their Army, but here in Panama there is only one general, and his name is Manuel Antonio Noriega, and that is it. [end recording]

Southern Command 'Meddling' in Domestic Policy

PA0812170889 Panama City CRITICA in Spanish 8 Dec 89 pp 1, 18

[Text] The U.S. imperialist regime insists on violating the principle of nonintervention, which is clearly established in the Panama Canal treaties, through the use of clandestine and illegal communications media manipulated by the Southern Command. The regime is meddling in Panama's domestic policy to disinform and disrupt the peace and tranquillity of the Panamanian nation. Lieutenant Colonel Perry, cochairman of the Joint Committee and spokesperson for the Southern Command [title as published], has noted the intentions of Generals Thurman and Cisneros in disavowing the signature of former President Jimmy Carter in the treaties promulgated since the beginning of this national liberation struggle. The fundamental objective of President Bush's imperialist regime, which is to maintain control of the canal, is obvious when it chooses to implement its own laws and regulations in reverted areas, ignoring the Panamanian penal, police, and traffic laws, and it forcefully imposes searches of citizen's vehicles and patrols of the national highways.

U.S. Troops Accused of Endangering Water Supply

PA0912231489 Panama City CRITICA in Spanish 8 Dec 89 p 1

[Text] On 7 December, U.S. forces staged a series of exercises near the Chilibre potable water plant using chemical weapons, and thus endangered the supply of potable water to Panama City, as it could have been contaminated. Three armed Hummer vehicles and a OH-58D helicopter were used to transfer troops to the Chilibre area for the exercises, which were not coordinated with the Joint Council as established in Article 4 of the Panama Canal Treaties.

We recall that a helicopter fell near Chilibre some months ago and destroyed high tension cables that left several communities in Panama City without electricity. The U.S. forces have refused to pay the damages caused by this accident. A similar accident at the potable water plant would seriously jeopardize the Panamanian people's health.

Diplomatic Relations With Luxembourg Normalized

PA0912044689 Panama City CRITICA in Spanish 1 Dec 89 p 2

[Text] Ambassador Gaspar Wittgreen presented his credentials to His Royal Highness the Grand Duke of Luxembourg, thereby accrediting the Panama Embassy to that country and officially normalizing Panama's diplomatic relations with the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg.

Luxembourg is a member of the EEC, and therefore the normalization of relations at embassy level with that important nation is highly significant, because the isolation the United States is trying to impose on our country has begun to break.

Ambassador Wittgreen has stated that, after presenting his credentials, the Grand Duke of Luxembourg expressed his sympathy for the Panamanian Government and its people, who he wished good luck and a better future. He was also interested in learning more about the status and condition of the crisis that Panama is suffering as a result of U.S. aggression.

In diplomatic circles, the normalization of diplomatic relations between our country and that West European nation is indicative and of great significance.

Experts on diplomatic issues state that the normalization of diplomatic relations between our country and that West European nation is highly important.

Attorneys Prepare To Attach Manfredo's Property

PA1012184289 Panama City LA REPUBLICA in Spanish 10 Dec 89 pp 1, 8-A

[Text] A group of Panamanian attorneys are taking steps before the appropriate authorities to attach [embargados] all of Fernando Manfredo's assets and properties if, lending himself to the U.S. President's dirty game, he accepts the post of Panama Canal administrator as of 1 January 1990.

Manfredo says he would be pleased to serve as the next canal administrator, even though he would be violating the Torrijos-Carter treaties, which states that the Panamanian who takes over the position on the aforementioned date must be proposed by the Republic of Panama.

Fernando Manfredo would also be violating Law 16 of 27 June 1989, whereby the National Legislative Assembly approved the procedure for chosing the Panamanian who will hold that position in accordance with the Torrijos-Carter treaties.

As a first measure, the group of attorneys have asked the Property Registry's directorate to deny any asset or property transfers Fernando Manfredo may attempt to carry out within the next few days.

The attorneys said that this would be one of the actions that would be taken against Manfredo in response to the treason against the fatherland that he is on the verge of committing.

They also said that Manfredo is running the risk of tacitly losing his nationality, as established in Article 13 of the national constitution, because he would be serving an enemy state.

U.S. Forces Tabloid Recognizes Treaty Violation

PA0912180189 Panama City CRITICA in Spanish 8 Dec 89 p 1

[Text] The TROPIC TIMES, a tabloid illegally published by the U.S. Armed Forces in the Panama Canal area, recognizes in its 6 December edition that the U.S. Government has violated Article II of the Panama Canal Treaty, which establishes the appointment of a Panamanian administrator to the Panama Canal Commission, proposed by the Republic of Panama, effective 1 January 1990.

As a matter of fact, the tabloid quotes the statement given by White House Press Secretary Marlin Fitzwater and Deputy Panama Canal Commission Administrator D.P. McAuliffe [as published] on President Bush's request that Fernando Manfredo, Jr. assume the post of Panama Canal Commission administrator, ignoring the Panamanian Government's proposal that this position be given to Tomas Gabriel Altamirano Duque.

Manfredo has been recognized as a faithful protector of U.S. interests and a sneaky enemy of Panama's participation in the Panama Canal.

It is known from reliable sources that Manfredo supports the U.S. policy of increasing the canal tolls, which would affect the canal users' economy; and that he also intends to decrease the participation of Panama's work force in the canal.

Newspaper Urges Manfredo To Decline Canal Post

PA1012150689 Panama City LA REPUBLICA in Spanish 6 Dec 89 p 4

[Text] It seems incredible that his ambition for a high position in the canal administration has led a man with an honest past to fall and be repudiated by all Panamanians, both progovernment and the opposition. He has become an instrument of those who conspire against his homeland, and he has taken sides with George Bush, the man who wants to strangle the Panamanian people by closing off their means of survival.

Manfredo, a prosperous businessman who has enough resources to live comfortably, has placed his name and that of his family on the list of turncoats by accepting a position offered to him by George Bush, who has ignored the procedures set forth in the Torrijos-Carter treaties. Manfredo has also betrayed the confidence that General Omar Torrijos Herrera once had in him—for which he and his family have been cursed by our people.

How could a man whom Gen. Torrijos designated deputy administrator, based on his nationalist background and because he trusted his straightforwardness and believed that he would always defend Panamanian interests, accept a position disavowing the Panamanian Government and Legislative Assembly's will? How could he, when the Legislative Assembly, in accordance with the 1977 canal treaties, had already designated a man such as Tomas Gabriel Altamirano Duque for that position?

Manfredo reportedly has bought a house in the United States and has requested permission to move to a building on a military base. This shows that this citizen has forgotten his Panamanian nationality, and therefore will follow the orders he will receive from Washington. Manfredo has disappointed all Panamanians, both in the government and in the opposition. He is repudiated by all those who respect the homeland's symbols. He has stained his family name with his attitude.

Manfredo still has time to decline his appointment; he can still refuse to accept that appointment and save his family name. If he really feels like a Panamanian who has inherited a country forged by of our forefathers and martyrs whom he accompanied on 9 January 1964, he should decline that designation, which has provoked national repudiation. He must decide: Either he accepts Bush's mandates or rejects, as a Panamanian, the U.S. President's crazy maneuver. If he chooses the latter, he will be able to hold his head high, proud of being a citizen of this country. There is no other way he can save his name, as well as his family's, and remain a patriot.

Columnist Views Canal Administrator Appointment

PA0912025789 Panama City MATUTINO in Spanish 7 Dec 89 p 4

[From the "Moyolandia" column by Harmodio Icaza: "Bush, Uno Mas"]

[Text] The communique made public by ADOC (Civic Democratic Opposition Alliance] on 6 December is nothing more than a poor effort to try to please both sides. However, it is obvious that the latest comments by opposition figures prove that they are beginning to realize the consequences of their actions for the past 2 years.

It calls to our attention that while U.S. actions did not affect opposition figures' interests, there was no reason to protest economic sanctions, even after they were designed to strangle the Panamanian people. Now, they all jump as one when new sanctions, by mere chance, affect their income. Then, they come out to defend the suffering Panamanian people.

It is laughable to argue that the U.S. attitude regarding the appointment of a Panamanian citizen for the post of administrator would have been different had the elections not been canceled, and it is also laughable because a candidate for the post of administrator was selected by the Legislative Assembly elected by the people and recognized by the United States during Ardito Barletta's mandate.

For our fatherland, the moment is crucial. We are faced with the most flagrant violation of the treaties, and such a violation must be denounced according to the procedures set by the treaties, and not in the way suggested by ADOC, which openly demonstrates a complete lack of knowledge of the treaty stipulations.

If President Bush maintains his decision, he could hardly argue that his country is committed to complying with the canal treaties. He cannot even legally justify that the appointment of Manfredo falls within a personal interpretation contained in Law 96-70, because not even in that memorandum can one find justification for such an action.

I affirm that President Bush has the worst advisers with regard to Panama, and, until he replaces them, he is destined to continue making mistakes, and, at the same time, turn Panama into the most shameful stain of his foreign policy.

Bushnell (Maisto's replacement) has a good reputation, although it is going to be nearly impossible in the future for him to complete the page in his resume on his stay in Panama [as published], but despite this, he has enough time to straighten out the mistakes made by his predecessors in providing better advice to their president.

Editorial Views Democracy 'Made in the USA'

PA0912022589 Panama City LA REPUBLICA in Spanish 1 Dec 89 p 4

[Editorial: "Philippine-Style Democracy"]

[Text] Those who believe in human rights and respect for life have been profoundly shaken to learn of an uprising by units of the Philippine Army against the Corazon Aquino regime, imposed by the United States after Ferdinand Marcos left the country.

Today some Army units rebelled and took over several garrisons near the presidential palace. Immediately, however, Bush, from the plane carrying him to a summit meeting with Gorbachev, ordered the U.S. Armed Forces stationed in the Philippines to help Aquino's government impose democracy his way, with rockets, fighter planes, and if the situation warrants, to use the infantry to put down the movement.

That is democracy—made in the USA. It is the same democracy that the United States is imposing in El Salvador. From U.S. military bases along the banks of the Panama Canal, the United States sent reinforcements and planes to bomb Salvadoran civilians, because it knows that the Salvadoran people side with the guerrillas.

However, "human rights are not being violated" in El Salvador nor in the Philippines. In those countries the civilian casualties do not count. That is the kind of democracy advocated by countries that have been bribed with promises that their foreign debts will be condoned. They try to crush any movement designed to prevent the continuity of the military bases in the Philippines, just as they seek to strangle us economically, because we want—as stated in the Torrijos-Carter treaty—the U.S. bases out of Panama as of 31 December 1999.

That is typical Yankee democracy. Just as on the ill-fated day when they turned their back on Marcos and imposed Aquino, they will do the same with her if she ever suggests the withdrawal of U.S. bases from the Philippines.

This is a lesson for the entire world. It is a lesson for all of us who believe in not allowing human rights to be trampled, and who believe in the right of man to do God's will on earth.

Revised Payment Plan for Employees Issued

PA1012002689 Panama City CRITICA in Spanish 7 Dec 89 pp 1, 27

[Communique issued by Finance and Treasury Minister Orville Goodin in Panama City on 6 December]

[Text] Communique to the country: On Sunday, 3 December, the national government informed citizens of the manner in which [public employees'] salaries for the second half of November and for the first and second half of December will be paid. That communique explained the reasons why these measures were being taken, including those steps taken because our people and government are the victims of the brutal U.S. Government aggression. That communique also noted that the national government pledged to undertake an intensive campaign with all of the country's active sectors to inform them of the economic and fiscal situation we are going through.

During that process of consultation in which the government and mass organizations (FENASEP [National Federation of Associations of Public Employees] - Coordinating Board of State Enterprises) participated, talks were held with local businessmen to find formulas that will, in the short-run, improve the proposal announced on 3 December and bring the spirit of Christmas into every home in our country.

In view of the above, the national government informs the citizens and particularly the public employees, of the new payment schedule.

1. Payment for the second half of November (is unchanged): 7 December, for salaries up to 400 balboas;

14 December, for salaries between 401 and 750 balboas; 15 December, for salaries starting at 751 balboas and upward.

2. Payment for the first half of December:

a. 18 December. The total amount of the net salary, minus 30 balboas, divided among four checks dated 29 December.*

b. 22 December. The remaining 30 balboas will be paid in checks that can be cashed immediately.

3. Payment for the second half of December:

a. 27 December. Sixty percent of the net salary will be paid in checks dated 16 January 1990.

b. 16 January 1990. The remaining 40 percent will be paid in checks that can be cashed immediately.

*These checks can be cashed immediately in local stores, where 80 percent of their worth can be used to purchase food, and 20 percent will be returned in cash; or 60 percent of their worth can be used to purchase other goods, and 40 percent will be returned in cash.

4. The remainder of the measures announced in the 3 December communique regarding food bags and cuts in telephone, energy, and water services, as well as the ban on evictions, remain in force.

The measures accurately show that the Panamanian nation, its government, its workers, and its businessmen, imbued with a patriotic spirit, make national unity work in the face of the unfair U.S. aggression. In the consultations mentioned above, we announced that the national government will continue talks with all the active forces to decide what measures will be in order next year so as to remain on the course of our national liberation.

To conclude, the national government is inviting all local businessmen—in keeping with the spirit of the New Year's holidays—to join this initiative and contribute toward giving our people the joy they yearn for and deserve.

Treasury and Finance Minister Orville Goodin

6 December 1989

Interim Financing Provided by Businessmen

PA1012004389 Panama City Telemetro Television in Spanish 2300 GMT 7 Dec 89

[Interview with Treasury and Finance Minister Orville Goodin by reporters on 7 December; place not given—recorded]

[Text] [Goodin] The search for national unity sought by all the forces of the country—the workers, the government, and the businessmen—has resulted in the drafting of a system that will keep the Panamanian people from having the sad Christmas that Mr. Bush had planned. The businessmen, without altering the government's payment plan, and ensuring that the fiscal situation will remain stable, will provide the interim financing that is required.

[Reporter] Has the entire business sector agreed to the payment plan, or have only a group of businessmen agreed to it?

[Goodin] A large group, an important group has accepted the plan.

[Reporter] Mr. Minister, does this include supermarkets?

[Goodin] There is food, there is food included in those groups.

Labor Sector To Demand Amendments to Labor Code

PA1012013089 Panama City Telemetro Television in Spanish 2300 GMT 7 Dec 89

[Text] Aniano Pinzon, member of the Republic's workers federation [not further identified], has said that the labor sector will demand that the Labor Code be amended and that mass firing be prevented.

[Begin recording] [Pinzon] We are making efforts for the government to adopt measures to keep the job sources that exist in our country open. This is why we are demanding a return to the stability we had with the 1972 Labor Code. This would keep businessmen from playing with the workers' stability.

We are worried about what is going to happen next year. We can already see that U.S. companies in Panama will begin firing workers next year as a result of the U.S. Government's restrictions. Next year will be a difficult year for us. We do not see a good future. We believe there is going to be a wave of firing next year.

[Reporter] What do you believe could guarantee the stability of the labor sector?

[Pinzon] We believe that this can be done with a law, a law that allows the worker to keep his job. However, currently the employer can pay off the worker and put him out on the street without giving any reason for firing him. Job stability would guarantee that the worker can keep his job if a false reason has been given to fire him. [end recording]

Argentina

Menem Comments on Malta Meeting, Rowny Visit

PY0812202889 Buenos Aires DYN in Spanish 1930 GMT 8 Dec 89

[Text] Buenos Aires, 8 Dec (DYN)—Today President Carlos Menem was briefed on the alternatives and conclusions of the Malta summit between U.S. President George Bush and Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev in the first week of December. President Menem called the briefing "a gesture of courtesy" on the part of the U.S. President.

At noon today Menem went to the Foreign Ministry to attend a luncheon with the Foreign Minister Domingo Cavallo, Defense Minister Italo Luder, and U.S. Special Envoy Edward Rowny.

At the end of the luncheon at the Foreign Ministry, Menem said: "The possibility of a world war has been completely eliminated. There are, however, small wars in some countries. Obviously, those wars cause great harm."

Asked whether peace will be achieved in Central America, Menem said: "We are working on that and on the Middle East issue."

Rowny, a retired general who has been in charge of White House disarmament affairs since the term of Ronald Reagan, has also been entrusted to brief the governments of Brazil and Venezuela, to which he will travel within the next few hours.

Menem on 'Necessary Corrections' to Economic Plan

PY0812131289 Buenos Aires Domestic Service in Spanish 0100 GMT 8 Dec 89

[Excerpt] The economic plan remains in force, and we will make the necessary corrections, President Carlos Menem said this evening. He added that the dollar rate and the interest rate increase are obvious evidence that something is not working properly in the economy.

The president said: The economic plan is fully in force, and we will make the necessary corrections, but this will not be done in the immediate future. We will see; we are holding talks every day. Do not mention any dates for it because no date has yet been set. Do not mention figures because you may make a big mistake.

In statements to the "New Times" program over La Plata Channel 2, Menem said—in connection to the increase in the dollar rate and in interest rates—that the government is following those variables with concern. He reiterated that this is evidence that something is not working properly within the economy and that this is what we are trying to correct. [passage omitted]

Rapanelli To Announce Economic Measures 10 Dec

PY1012192989 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1856 GMT 10 Dec 89

[Text] Buenos Aires, 10 Dec (TELAM)—Argentine President Carlos Menem said that he will comment on his administration's new economic measures "after Economy Minister Nestor Rapanelli's message tonight."

The chief executive made this brief remark shortly arriving at Aeroparque Metropolitan Airport from La Rioja Province at 1635 this afternoon. Menem refrained from any further comment.

Menem arrived on the T-01 presidential plane with his wife Zulema Yoma, his daughter Zulema Maria Evay, and Presidential Press Director Adalberto Diaz Garcia.

Finance Committee Head Previews Economic Moves

PY1012205189 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 2000 GMT 10 Dec 89

[Text] Buenos Aires, 10 Dec (NA)—Jorge Matzkin, chairman of the Chamber of Deputies' Budget and Finance Committee, reported today on some of the measures that will be announced tonight, including a 40-percent increase in utility rates and a 25-percent increase in salaries. As Matzkin left the Economy Ministry this afternoon, he also announced that the domestic debt will be rescheduled over 2 years with a grace period in the 3d year.

The Peronist deputy refused to mention figures for the new exchange rate for the U.S. dollar, but he did say that it would be somewhere around 1,000 australes to the dollar.

Matzkin indicated that gasoline prices will go up 50 percent. He explained that "these measures are aimed at easing the pressure on the national treasury." He pointed out that lower-income sectors "neither win nor lose" with these measures, which "will have some effect on the higher-income sectors."

The Argentine Cabinet has been meeting since 1600, and some members will visit with President Menem at the Olivos Residence at 1900. The exact time of Economy Minister Nestor Rapanelli's message to the nation is still unknown.

Devaluation, Salary, Fuel Hikes Announced

PY1112024689 Buenos Aires Argentina Televisora Color Network in Spanish 0155 GMT 11 Dec 89

[Text] Tonight's Cabinet meeting at the Olivos Presidential Residence has resulted in the government's decision to increase the salaries of public servants by 30,000 australes, of private workers by 24,000 australes, and to increase family allowances by 4,000 australes.

The government also increased the price of premium gasoline by 59 percent—it will now cost 430 australes per liter—and of regular gasoline by 61 percent, which means that it will now cost 360 australes per liter. The price of diesel fuel has been increased by 62 percent; it will now cost 227 australes per liter.

The official rate of exchange for the U.S. dollar has been set at 1,000 australes per dollar.

Central Bank Head Denies Rumors of Bank Holiday

PY1012010889 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 2213 GMT 9 Dec 89

[Text] Buenos Aires, 9 Dec (NA)—Central Bank President Egidio Iannella reported today that banks will operate normally next Monday, 11 December. He thus denied rumors of a bank holiday.

The banks will start operating on 11 December on a new schedule, from 0800 to 1200, in accordance with the new energy saving program implemented by the government.

Rumors about a possible bank holiday spread this weekend as a result of the economic readjustment program to be implemented by the government next week.

According to the rumors, the bank holiday would be called to prevent a run on the banks on Monday that might result because details of the economic adjustment are not known.

Iannella said that there will be no bank holiday and that banks will operate normally on Monday.

Iannella also said that messages will be released by the Central Bank and delivered to the banks regarding the new economic adjustment measures that will affect the financial sector.

Confirms Bank Holiday for 11 Dec

PY1012201989 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1950 GMT 10 Dec 89

[Text] Buenos Aires, 10 Dec (NA)—Argentine Central Bank President Egidio Iannella this afternoon confirmed that there will be an exchange and bank holiday on Monday, 11 December only. This holiday is necessitated by "operational considerations."

Iannella explained that, since economic adjustments will be announced tonight and banks will open early tomorrow morning, declaring a holiday is the only way to handle the situation.

Economist Says Internal Debt at Lowest Level

PY0812185589 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1855 GMT 7 Dec 89

[All figures and currencies as received]

[Text] Buenos Aires, 7 Dec (NA)—The current volume of the internal public debt on which interest is paid—measured in dollars as of October 1989—is at one of the lowest levels in the past 20 years.

This was determined in a study made by an economist who recommends that the state promptly fulfill its commitments regarding this debt.

In an article published in today's AMBITO FINANCIERO, economist Martin Zarich disagreed with those who propose the renegotiation, the rescheduling, or the nonpayment of the public internal debt because, he said, "One of the surest ways of leading the country to hyperinflation is to deny the government the possibility of having financial sources and of responsibly contracting debts."

Zarich pointed to four arguments normally used by those who favor the nonpayment of the debt. The first is that "the debt has currently reached one of its highest levels in our history; therefore, it must be reduced to ensure stability."

In response to this argument, Zarich cited statistics showing that the internal public debt on which interest is paid, measured in dollars as of October 1989, is at one of the lowest levels since 1970.

"The current amount is surpassed in [word indistinct] of the 19 years that have been analyzed, and is 35 percent lower than the simple average for the period, while in constant-value australes, it coincides with the relative average," the article says.

The statistics show that the smallest debt in dollars was that of 1984, when the dollar reserves totalled $3,562, and the largest in 1980, with $18,302. In constant-value australes there are currently 4,880,953 australes against 2,593,885 australes, which, in 1984, had been the base for the previous 20 years. The ceiling, which was reached in 1974, was 6,524,944 australes.

Regarding the second argument of those who support the nonpayment of the debt, Zarich pointed out: "The internal public debt creates monetary disorder as a result of its size and of the reduction [contraccion] of the payments."

After analyzing the due dates, Zarich concluded that "all debts must be repaid on their due dates."

He explained that 51 percent of the debt consists of required reserves deposited in the Central Bank, and that most of these mandatory deposits are funded in single certificates with a redemption period of more than 7 years.

"The interest on this certificate is capitalized monthly," Zarich said, "except for a small quantity, which the monetary authority really pays." Therefore, its monetary impact is irrelevant.

Zarich pointed out that the remaining 49 percent of the debt consists of $1.8 billion in public notes and telephone company bonds.

Commenting on government securities, Zarich mentioned a study in which he describes the schedule for the payment of these notes showing that the average payments for 1990 and 1991 amount to $1,015 and up to $70.2 million a month, "very fairly distributed in the period."

Zarich explained that in order to "evaluate the magnitude of these figures, in the last few months, the Treasury has had similar monthly surpluses even though the tax reform has not been approved. [no closing quotation mark as received]

Zarich then mentioned the third argument, which states that the current internal debt "can be liquified," and then self-financed through the printing of new currency and certificates.

Disagreeing with this third argument, Zarich said: "In view of the frequent use of nonpayment mechanisms, since the mid-1970s, it has been progressively more difficult for the government to finance its projects through the noncompulsory purchase of government securities because "after the reserves were liquified, the financial dealers demanded better returns before they would recover their confidence in the government."

Concluding, Zarich said that the fourth argument states: "The internal debt offers extremely high profits to speculators, who thus benefit from the government and from the taxpayers."

To prove the "invalidity" of this argument, Zarich pointed out that the study on the evolution of the internal public debt on which interest is paid, shows that "the internal public debt has not increased since 1988."

Staple Prices Up; Price Policy Committee Formed

PY0812162889 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 8 Dec 89 p 5

[Text] Domestic Trade Secretary Pablo Challu authorized a price increase of nine percent for flour, 21 percent for oil, 0.69 percent for mayonnaise and one percent for biscuits while the price of sugar is still being discussed.

Furthermore it was known that Challu yesterday officially established the Consultative Committee of Price Policy which is composed of company representatives, union officials and secretariat members, which will come together every two weeks to analyze price developments and future perspectives.

The committee, which does not aim at controlling prices, includes the head of the Supermarket Association, Ovidio Bolo, the Vice-President of the Argentine Chamber of Commerce (AC), Marcelo Heredia, the head of the Union for Commercial Activities (UDECA), Jorge Sabate for the company sector, Jose Rodriguez from the auto workers union (SMATA), Jose Pedraza from the railwaymen's union (UF) and Carlos West Campo from the hospital workers union (FATSA) for the unions.

Herzog Departs, Menem Comments on Economy

PY0812134289 Buenos Aires DYN in Spanish 1246 GMT 8 Dec 89

[Text] Buenos Aires, 8 Dec (DYN) — This morning President Carlos Menem flatly stated that the Cabinet "is immovable and the economic program is also immovable," and he reiterated that "nothing has been defined" regarding alleged readjustment measures that will be implemented by the government within the next few days. But, he did advise the population "to remain calm, to have hope and faith."

"When we have concrete facts, I will immediately inform the media. Nothing has been defined; there are only rumors," Menem said during a chat with the press at the metropolitan airport, where he bade farewell to Israeli President Hayim Herzog.

Asked about the credibility of the economic plan if a readjustment program is in the offing, the chief of state again flaty stated: "Who told you about the readjustment program? Nothing has been defined on the topic. Do not report as a fact something that is not yet a reality."

In an emphatic tone and at times irritable, when asked if a readjustment program was necessary, Menem said that "the economic authorities are going to define the matter" of the readjustment program.

Asked about the uneasiness of the people in the street and the long lines at service stations and food stores, the president asked the journalist: "Where did you hear that? They are just rumors." And, when he was asked what message he had for the population, he answered: "They should remain calm, they should have hope and faith."

"When I assumed the responsibility of leading the Republic, I asked for a period of 2 and ½ to 3 years; only 5 months have elapsed in a span that is not ours. I should have assumed power on 10 December, and the impatience and this series of rumors is evidently not favoring what we want to do," Menem emphasized.

Consulted on the possibility of reshuffling the ministerial cabinet, Menem emphatically said: "There is no such possibility, absolutely none." He asked the press to "wait and you will learn if there will be any increase in salaries, fuel, or public services rates."

Asked whether Argentina would seek foreign credit, Menem said: "This has always been the solution in Argentina. Until the day we start to grow and use all Argentine potentials, we will have to continue resorting to foreign credit."

He also pointed out that he will make no announcement nor deliver any message to the people. He said: "I cannot confirm that there will be any announcement on economic readjustments in the next few days or before the end of the year.

"In my opinion, no readjustment is required, but if the economic experts believe there must be a readjustment, we will implement it." He said readjustments are a "normal" requirement in countries "in crisis." "It is also normal to overlook some details."

"Measures on the dollar rate and the interest rate have been overlooked. This is why we are holding talks to find solutions to the situation," the president said.

Asked about public expenses, Menem said: "You know that we have closed the fiscal accounting with a $66 million surplus. This had not happened in Argentina for many years."

Told that the Central Bank had lost $104 million in the last few days, Menem said: "Yes, but the Central Bank has 1.6 billion [no currency specified] in reserves. We have accumulated that much in 5 months. We are absolutely not concerned about this loss."

USSR Economist Aganbegyan Arrives for Visit

PY1012200589 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 10 Dec 89 p 13

[Text] (NA)—Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev's main economic adviser, Abel Aganbegyan, arrived yesterday in Argentina for a non-official visit.

Aganbegyan—who was invited by the Mediterranean Foundation and other Argentine organizations—said that the Soviet Union was ready to join both the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank (WB) shortly, as a way of "actively participating in the future economic order of mankind." The visitor added that joining these bodies entailed many obligations and, therefore, a reasonable period of time should elapse before the incorporation was achieved.

The Soviet official pointed out he was visiting Argentina as "a scientist" and said he would analyze—together with Argentine economists—"common economic processes like structural reconstruction, the fight against inflation, the problem of the foreign debt, the improvement of our nations' standard of living and the effectiveness of the state sector in the economy."

On the foreign debt, Aganbegyan said a special financial organization should be created in the United Nations (UN) to purchase the debt at the parallel market's current values, and added that debtor countries should be allowed an annual growth of at least three percent.

He denied that socialism was crumbling but rather said changes were taking place "since the Stalinist model proved to be wrong and is now at a dead-end." Finally, the economist dismissed Cuban leader Fidel Castro's remark that the socialist bloc virtually did not exist and said each person might have a different idea about socialism and everyone enjoyed the right "to express what he or she feels."

Group of Eight Considering Additional Members

PY0912115889 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1805 GMT 8 Dec 89

[By Daniel Santoro]

[Text] Buenos Aires, 8 Dec (NA)—Argentine diplomacy is conducting secret negotiations, following the October 1990 Group of Eight presidential summit in Caracas, to call for a meeting of presidents of all ALADI (Latin America Integration Association) countries at a time and place to be determined. The idea is to get together the Argentine, Brazilian, Uruguayan, Peruvian, Venezuelan, Colombian, and Mexican chiefs of state from the "Group of Eight" countries with those of Chile, Bolivia, Ecuador, and Paraguay to lay the foundations for a Latin American common market. Panama was suspended from the "Group of Eight" early this year when then President Eric Delvalle was ousted. If that meeting does take place, the "Group of Eight" would be transformed into a "Group of 11" which would be the basis for the Latin American common market.

The path, however, is not all that smooth, and close aides to Foreign Minister Domingo Cavallo suffered a setback when they tried to symbolically invite the ambassadors of Chile, Bolivia, Ecuador, and Paraguay to the meeting of "Group of Eight" foreign ministers and economy ministers that took place 4-5 December in Buenos Aires. In consultations with the other members, the Mexican delegation opposed the invitation, arguing that the inclusion of new members into the group was not on the agenda. The Aztec nation is not too inclined to increase the number of "Group of Eight" members out of fear that nations whose democratic processes have not been consolidated—as was the case with Panama—might be admitted.

Desperate attempts by Venezuelan President Andres Perez at the "Group of Eight" presidential summit in Ica, Peru to have Jamaica take the place of Panama proved unsuccessful. His colleagues' answer was a flat no. This was indeed the most appropriate answer to an initiative tied exclusively to Venezuela's interest in assuming a leading role in the Caribbean.

A first gambit by San Martin Palace will consist of getting the ministerial meeting in Mexico next March to announce a general reduction of tariffs on reciprocal trade. In fact, Cavallo tried unsuccessfully to have this spectacular measure announced at last Tuesday's session at the Alvear Palace Hotel in Buenos Aires, but he ran into resistance from the Brazilian delegation, whose country is now in the middle of an electoral process. Minister Cavallo was supported in this offensive by his Venezuelan and Mexican counterparts, who share the view that it is time to end the "case-by-case" method of negotiating customs duties that has delayed the process of integration for a whole decade.

Brazil and Chile will be represented at the March meeting in Mexico by authorities that will emerge from upcoming elections. They might then be in a position to support measures like eliminating customs duties that have been on the books for decades.

A second San Martin Palace gambit consists of getting an expansion of the "Group of Eight" membership approved by the fourth presidential summit, to be held next October in Caracas, to bring all ALADI member countries under the same political umbrella.

Ecuadoran President Rodrigo Borja is making quiet but desperate efforts to get his country into the group as he promised in his electoral campaign. President Menem has also promised his Paraguayan counterpart, General Andres Rodriguez, that he will make an effort to have Paraguay admitted to the club of Latin American democratic countries. Bolivia has already expressed its interest in joining this club and, in Chile, talks with the opposition "democratic convergence" on joining the "Group of Eight" have already taken place.

However, there are border conflicts—for example, the Peru-Ecuador dispute over the Condor Sierra—that can hinder the priority objective of attaining continent-wide integration.

In the hallways of the posh Alvear Palace Hotel in Buenos Aires, Minister Cavallo argued with his counterparts that "the rules of the integration game must not be negotiated" with businessmen who might see themselves as being affected by reciprocal free trade. As an economist feeling right at home, Minister Domingo Cavallo defended his proposition of integration without planning—with the exception of infrastructure projects—based on the rules of the market. Should his proposition be accepted, it will certainly change the Latin American reality.

Air Force Chief of Staff Departs for Venezuela

PY0812143489 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish
1119 GMT 8 Dec 89

[Excerpt] Buenos Aires, 8 Dec (TELAM)—Major Brigadier Jose Antonio Julia, Air Force chief of staff, departed for Venezuela this morning from the metropolitan airport. He is traveling in response to an invitation from his Venezuelan colleague, Division General (Air Force) Candido Farias Rodriguez.

Julia departed the military sector of Jorge Newberry Airport at 0755 [0955 GMT] on board an Air Force Tango-10 plane. On departing, Julia indicated that his visit to the sister country is of a "strictly military" nature, and "there is no implicit political message in the visit." [passage omitted]

Embalse Nuclear Plant Out of Service Again

PY0812175089 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish
2352 GMT 7 Dec 89

[Text] Buenos Aires, 7 Dec (TELAM)—The crisis that is affecting the national power system suddenly worsened when the Embalse nuclear power plant went out of service.

This 650-megawatt power plant in the city of Rio Tercero, Cordoba Province, went out of service today at 1100 due to a electronic equipment failure which automatically turned on the protection systems.

According to Luis Caruso, national energy director, everything is ready to bring the Embalse power plant on line 9 December at dawn.

It must be recalled that this power plant went out of service on 4 December, and it started full operations at 1900 yesterday.

The San Nicolas V power plant (350 megawatts) is scheduled to begin operating this week, while the Puerto Nuevo VIII turbine (?group) began working yesterday although it has not yet reached full power.

The first 300-megawatt turbine of the Piedrabuena power plant of D.E.B.A. [Buenos Aires Electric Power Administration] also began operating.

Caruso said that for the time being the failure of the Embalse power plant is being offset with the reserves from the Alicura plant [word indistinct] (?in) an operation that with the incident of 4 December made the water level drop by 2 meters after a long period of recovery.

However, once the Embalse nuclear plant resumes service, SEGBA [Greater Buenos Aires Electrical Services] will have to stop the Costanera VI turbine (?group) which has a serious water loss problem and which will be out of service for a week.

Caruso reiterated: "It is important for the population to understand that the national power system is in an emergency situation so people must make a rational use of energy."

Plant Resumes Operation

PY0912171289 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish
1522 GMT 9 Dec 89

[Text] Buenos Aires, 9 Dec (TELAM)—The Energy Secretariat has reported that the Embalse and San Nicolas V plants went on line again this morning, thus permitting an increase in the energy operational reserves. The report indicates that the Embalse plant, located 110 km southwest of Cordoba City, is once again operational after a 48-hour stoppage and that "the temporary emergency has now been brought under control."

The report states that although "the energy situation is under control, it has not been completely resolved. Consumers are therefore asked to be rational and to use electricity moderately."

The San Nicolas V plant once again went into operation today at 0900, generating 52 megawatts. The report also indicates that "other important units will be added to the system, thus permitting maximum thermal generation while the water level of the Embalse plant is recuperating."

Bolivia

Partial Municipal Election Results Released

PY0912181089 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 0212 GMT 9 Dec 89

[Text] La Paz, 8 Dec (TELAM - DPA)—The Bolivian electoral court has confirmed that the Conscience of the Fatherland (CONDEPA) party gained a slight victory over the Movement of the Revolutionary Left-Nationalist Democratic Action [MIR-ADN] Patriotic Agreement in La Paz in the 3 December municipal elections.

CONDEPA, headed by television businessman Carlos Palenque Aviles, received 81,000 votes, or 37.8 percent of the total, against 34.7 percent for the Patriotic Agreement. The Nationalist Revolutionary Movement (MNR) received 12.4 percent of the votes, the Solidarity Civic Union (UCS) received 5 percent, and the Marxist United Left (IU) obtained 10 percent.

The new La Paz Municipal Council Board, which will be made up of 5 CONDEPA members, 5 representatives from the Patriotic Agreement, 2 from the MNR, and 1 from the UCS, will appoint the new mayor since these are indirect elections. This means that, after some negotiations, the MNR will decide whether the next mayor will be Carlos Palenque, from the CONDEPA, or Ronald MacLean, from the Patriotic Agreement.

The electoral court also released the election results from the city of El Alto, the fourth-largest city in Bolivia, which is located next to La Paz. The winner was CONDEPA (57.6 percent of the votes), next came the Patriotic Agreement (9.9 percent), the UCS (9.6 percent), and the MNR (7.6 percent).

Mayors have already been elected in the main cities of Bolivia, such as El Alto, Potosi, and Sucre, where CONDEPA, the Patriotic Agreement, and the IU obtained an absolute majority of votes, respectively. They have also been elected in Trinidad, where the UCS won easily, and in Cochabamba, where the UCS received the support of the MNR and IU within the municipal council. Negotiations to elect mayors are still continuing in large cities like La Paz, Santa Cruz, and Oruro.

Court Releases Drug Trafficker Lisboa Melgar

PY0912144589 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0037 GMT 9 Dec 89

[Text] La Paz, 8 Dec (EFE)—Social defense officials today confirmed to EFE that Carlos Lisboa Melgar, 35, who the police consider to be Bolivia's third most important drug trafficker, has been released. The authorities have reported that Lisboa Melgar, who was arrested on 26 November in Santa Cruz in southern Bolivia, was released on 7 December because of a Supreme Court ruling that upheld an "acquittal" ordered by a Trinidad court in 1988, when Lisboa Melgar was charged with cocaine production and trafficking.

In July 1988, the mobile units for rural areas (UMOPAR), which are subordinated to the police, confiscated a cocaine production laboratory [words indistinct]. According to the authorities, the laboratory "was 4 times bigger than the Huanchaca factory" where the members of a Bolivian-Spanish scientific mission were murdered by drug traffickers in September 1986.

Lisboa Melgar's laboratory, which was located near Puerto Siles in Beni (northern Bolivia), could produce 3,000 kg of cocaine per week. It occupied a large area and had a 500-meter airstrip, the sources said. The Trinidad court began to prosecute Lisboa Melgar after the laboratory was discovered.

Social defense officials said that the prosecution initiated in Trinidad provided sufficient evidence to justify the arrest of Lisboa Melgar, who was captured on 26 November. In a similar operation on the same day, alleged drug trafficker Herman Saldana, 26, was arrested.

(?The two) detainees were transferred to the cells of the special antidrug force in La Paz on 29 November. From there they were to be transferred to San Pedro prison after the appropriate legal steps.

Lisboa Melgar was linked to Peruvian and Colombian drug cartels. He exported cocaine to the United States via Mexico and to Europe, in some cases with the help of the Colombian cartels, [words indistinct] Social Defense Under Secretary Gonzalo Torrico said.

Japan Grants $5.5 Million for Road Maintenance

PY0912133389 La Paz La Red Panamericana in Spanish 1130 GMT 9 Dec 89

[Summary] Representatives of the Bolivian and Japanese Governments signed an agreement on 8 December for a nonreimbursable loan worth $5.5 million that will be used for the repair and maintenance of roads in Potosi Department.

At a ceremony in the Session Hall of the Foreign Ministry, Foreign Minister Carlos Iturralde and Japanese Charge d'Affaires (Toshimaro Oka) signed the pertinent document. The foreign minister highlighted

Japan's permanent cooperation in Bolivian projects. The donation, which is in the form of equipment, will take place between 8 December 1989 and 7 December 1990.

Brazil

Poll Shows Collor de Mello Ahead, Lula Gaining

PY0812142389 Rio de Janeiro Rede Globo Television in Portuguese 2200 GMT 7 Dec 89

[Excerpt] With 10 days to go until the runoff election, IBOPE [Brazilian Public Opinion and Statistics Institute] has revealed the results of a poll on the chances of the two presidential candidates. Polled were 3,650 voters in 260 cities, including those in capitals and municipalities in urban and rural zones.

Let us begin with the results by regions:

If the election were held today, Fernando Collor de Mello would win 64 percent of the votes in the North, and Luis Inacio da Silva, Lula, would be left with 31 percent.

In the northeast, Collor de Mello would win 57 percent of the votes with 36 percent of the votes for Lula.

In the east, central region, Collor de Mello would have 65 percent and Lula 28 percent.

In the south, Lula is ahead with 43 percent, and Collor de Mello is behind with 40 percent.

In the southeast, Lula is also out in front with 45 percent, and Collor de Mello behind with 44 percent.

Let us now take a look at the nationwide results: If the election were held today, Lula would garner 40 percent of vote, and Collor de Mello would win with 49 percent. Invalid ballots would total 6 percent; 5 percent of those polled are still undecided.

Let us now see how the two candidates have fared so far in the polls on the runoff presidential election: Collor de Mello began with 50 percent of the vote, went up to 51 percent, then 52 percent, and has now fallen 3 percentage points to 49 percent. Lula began with 38 percent, then lost a percentage point and stayed at 37 percent through the third poll. Lula has now gained 3 percentage points for a nationwide total of 40 percent.

These results were obtained through the so-called stimulated survey, where the voter is given a sample ballot and asked to choose the candidate for whom he would vote if the election were held today. The poll began on Monday, 4 December, after the first television debate on Sunday, 3 December. [passage omitted]

Arab Bank Converts Debt Into EMBRAER Stock

PY0912135689 Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 7 Dec 89 Economic Section p 1

[Text] The Arab Banking Corporation, associated with ABC-Roma, has converted $100 million in debt (811 million new cruzados at the official rate) into EMBRAER (Brazilian Aeronautics Company) stock. This amount represents 20 percent of the debt offered for conversion by EMBRAER.

Ricardo Arruda, the ABC-Roma director for corporate business, said that the Arab Banking Corporation, which has already loaned more than $500 million (4 billion new cruzados) to the country, will continue to invest in Brazil— particularly in the export, tourism, and petrochemical sectors.

According to Arruda, this strategy will be implemented as soon as the rules of the conversion have been ironed out, because the auctions have been suspended for the time being. Another five international banks will participate in the negotiations with EMBRAER in which the investors will purchase the foreign debt, with a discount, that still has to expire. They will receive in cruzados the appropriate funds to invest in the enterprise.

Chile

One Million At Rally To Close Aylwin Campaign

PY1112111289 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1954 GMT 10 Dec 89

[Text] Santiago, 10 Dec (EFE)—The opponents of General Augusto Pinochet's military regime in Chile today closed ranks around their presidential candidate Patricio Aylwin by holding a rally of proportions unprecedented in Chile's political history.

A human tide, which the organizers estimated at 1 million strong, swept into the O'Higgins Park in Santiago to attend the closing of the campaign of the Coalition of Parties for Democracy [CPPD]. The CPPD candidate for the elections that will be held on Thursday, 14 December, is Patricio Aylwin.

According to observers, more people attended this rally than the main rally by the Chilean opposition prior to the October 1988 plebiscite when a majority of more than 55 percent of the Chilean electorate thwarted Pinochet's attempt to stay in power for 8 more years and paved the way for the return of civilians to power by means of the elections that will be held shortly.

Aylwin, a 71-year-old Christian Democratic Party leader, said: "This rally is a preview of our victory and an expression of faith in a free and democratic Chile."

Speaking to a fervent crowd, Aylwin promised to push for political reforms capable of restoring democracy marked by "respect for human rights, freedom, pluralism, state of law, and the rights of minorities."

Alywin, who according to voting polls is the clear favorite over the two other presidential candidates, said: "Victory is ours, but we must also obtain a congressional majority to untie the knots of dictatorship."

In addition to the president, 120 deputies and 38 senators will be elected on 14 December. The current regime gets to appoint the remaining 9 senators.

In his 40-minute speech, Aylwin emphasized that the Chileans will "put an end to dictatorship" because "we have lost our fear and recovered our dignity." The opposition candidate added: "We are tired of hate, persecution and violence."

Encouraged by performers who had been in exile like the folk group Inti Illimani and Isabel Parra, the crowd greeted the "advent of democracy" and rejected "the dictatorship," to the tune of rock music, guarachas, and popular songs.

Aylwin said that his administration will push for an "open and competitive economy," in which the "vast majority" of Chileans who have not benefited from the development achieved by the military regime will participate.

He added that he will struggle against "extreme poverty," create job opportunities, set "fair salaries," and promote health, education, and housing programs "for everyone."

In his latest statements to the press, Aylwin had displayed his confidence that he will obtain an absolute majority —which is a prerequisite for not holding runoff elections in February 1990.

The CPPD, which supports Aylwin, is made up of all the parties that have traditionally opposed President Pinochet. The so-called political "rainbow" comprises dissimilar ideologies such as Christian democrats, social democrats, socialists and communists. In his speech Aylwin said: "The diversity of the coalition epitomizes the will for understanding and the common commitment to a democratic future."

He firmly rejected the charges that he has "a secret agreement with the Marxists." These charges have been frequently hurled at him by his two opponents: Hernan Buchi (progovernment) and Francisco Javier Errazuriz (a right-wing populist).

"We have no secret pact with the Communist Party, other than an agreement to strive for democracy," Aylwin stated. He indirectly accused his opponents of complicity with the regime by keeping silent about the "thousands of missing people, about the crimes commited during these years (of military regime) and about the secret laws (issued by General Pinochet's administration)."

Volodia Teitelboim, top leader of the Chilean Communist party, has told the press that he supports a democratic transition, and he has indicated that his party "will continue fighting the parallel government" that will result from General Pinochet staying on as commander in chief of the Army after stepping down as president of the nation.

Radio Cooperativa reported that a Christian Democratic Party leader was "badly hurt" and had to be taken to a hospital after he was attacked by military personnel from the noncommissioned officers school located near the O'Higgins Park. Radio Coorperativa also reported that at another nearby military building, military personnel dressed in civilian clothes "attacked" people who were going to the rally, and some of them, including a 12-year-old boy, were hurt by pellets fired by the soldiers.

Errazuriz Campaign Closes at Santiago Rally

PY1112144089 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 0930 GMT 11 Dec 89

[Text] There are several opinions regarding the number of people who attended the rally [9 December] to close the campaign of presidential candidate Francisco Javier Errazuriz.

The crowd spread over eight blocks more or less along Ejercito Avenue between La Alameda Street and Blanco Encalada Avenue.

According to a report released by the Errazuriz campaign committee, 500,000 people attended the rally. In his speech to the gathering, Errazuriz said that there were some 200,000 people.

A foreign news agency reported that 80,000 people attended the rally, and official police sources estimated the crowd at some 50,000.

Italian Christian Democratic Delegation Arrives

PY0912155089 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 0930 GMT 9 Dec 89

[Excerpt] An Italian political-labor Christian Democratic delegation, headed by former Italian Prime Minister Ciriaco de Mita and by Italian Christian Democratic Party Secretary General Arnaldo Forlani, has arrived in Chile at the invitation of the opposition coalition. The members of the delegation said that they came to Chile to cooperate and not to supervise.

Forlani said in a news conference that the Italian Government wants to promote bilateral political and socioeconomic relations under a Chilean administration headed by Aylwin. He added that the aid that Italy has extended over the past few years to the Chilean Christian Democratic Party will now be channeled toward our country as a whole. Contrary to what has happened in similar situations in other Latin American countries, however, this aid will not involve intervention in Chilean affairs. [passage omitted]

Colombia

Security Team for Bush To Check Out Cartagena

PA0912140489 Bogota Radio Cadena Nacional in Spanish 1243 GMT 9 Dec 89

[Text] Bogota—A special team of U.S. security experts will arrive in Cartagena next week to analyze the city's conditions. A summit is scheduled to take place to be attended by U.S. President George Bush.

According to official sources, the so-called czar of the anti-drug struggle in the United States—William Bennett—has decided to send the specialized commission to the capital of Bolivar Department, so that it may present a report on the city's security conditions.

The team will be comprised of (John Walders), a Drug Enforcement Administration official, and officials from the U.S. Defense Department, State Department, and National Security Council.

The date of the summit, which will also be attended by Peruvian President Alan Garcia and Bolivian President Jaime Paz Zamora, has yet to be decided, but unofficial sources said it might be held in February 1990.

Barco Back From Japan, Discusses Domestic Crisis

PA0912020789 Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 0103 GMT 9 Dec 89

[Passages within quotation marks recorded]

[Text] Colombian President Virgilio Barco returned to the country from Japan this afternoon. In Japan, President Barco obtained a loan of over $100 million for the industrial sector, among other things.

President Barco requested the unity of the three branches of the state to seek a solution to the crisis the country is experiencing. Barco also asserted that he will remain in his post until the last day of his mandate.

As a result of the pursuit of the reporters, President Barco was forced to discuss the country's political situation, including the confrontation between the Chamber of Representatives and the executive branch which was caused by the inclusion of the extradition issue on the referendum.

[Barco] "The Congress, the executive branch, and the other branch are free to act. I do not believe there is any confrontation. I hope that—as the Colombian people want and deserve—this country finds unity in the three branches of the state so that we can continue to protect this country, which needs so much protection and progress."

As for the proposal presented by one of the Social Conservative Party spokesmen, who suggested President Barco's resignation as a solution to the current situation, President Barco said:

[Barco] "I wish that were possible. The problem is that if one is committed to the people and if one is elected by a majority like the one by which I was elected, one must serve Colombia until the last minute."

Similarly, Government Minister Carlos Lemos warned that the resignation request presented to the Colombian governors is not a government act of retaliation or intimidation.

[Lemos] "If it had been an act of retaliation or intimidation, the resignation request would have been made before the voting at the Chamber of Representatives.

The problem is that elections are drawing closer, we are near the end of the year, and we must make some changes to and revise the government administration in certain departments."

Government Minister Lemos added that he will request an exhaustive investigation with regard to the charges raised by the president of the Chamber of Representatives.

Tomorrow, President Barco will study the possible changes to be made in the various governorships.

President Confirms Governors, Other Officials

PA0912192789 Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 1807 GMT 9 Dec 89

[Text] President Virgilio Barco has confirmed 11 governors, 3 intendants, and three commissioners, thus overcoming part of the regional authorities' national crisis provoked by the government itself.

The governors of the following departments have been confirmed: Atlantico, Bolivar, Boyaca, Caldas, Caqueta, Cauca, Cundinamarca, Huila, Risaralda, and Valle del Cauca. In addition, the intendants of Arauca, Casanare, and San Andres, and the commissioners of Amazonas, Guaviare, and Vichada were also confirmed.

Lemos Defends Call for Governors' Resignation

PA0812140989 Bogota Radio Cadena Nacional in Spanish 1200 GMT 8 Dec 89

[Text] Bogota—Carlos Lemos Simmonds, minister in charge of presidential functions, has asserted that the changes which are pending regarding some of the country's governorships are normal in all administrations.

In statements to this station's "Mundovision" newscast, Lemos said that current circumstances call for a review of what must be done in each department. I believe, the government minister asserted, that the time has come to review every department's administration and determine a course of action regarding the two challenges which the nation is facing at this moment, preservation of public order and the elections.

The acting president said that the governors' resignation was requested in order to examine each case and make changes wherever the situation warrants. Changes will be made where circumstances demand it and things will remain unchanged in cases where changes are not advised, he said. He added that the replacement of governors will be made, in the first place, to guarantee political impartiality on the part of the governors during the coming elections.

Finally, Lemos said, the changes in governorships cannot be considered a retaliation by the Executive Branch because of the positions adopted by members of the Chamber of Representatives. It would not be logical to punish part of the parliament because of the way it acted and to punish the other part because it has not yet acted, the minister in charge of presidential functions said.

Barco, Defense Minister Decree Military Changes

PA0912191789 Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish
27 Nov 89 p 9-A

[Text] Unexpected changes in the high command of the Armed Forces have been decreed by President Virgilio Barco and by Defense Minister Oscar Botero Restrepo.

A top military source has officially reported that the commander of the National Navy, the commander of the Army's 2d Division, and the Colombian delegate to Inter-American Defense Board will be sent to the reserves. The decision was unexpected in military circles because it was thought that the first two officers would remain in their posts.

President Barco and Defense Minister Botero also announced changes in the chain of command of all army divisions and brigades. These will be made known in the next few days.

According to the government's decree, the new commander of the National Navy is Vice Admiral Edgar Garay Rubio, who has been promoted to admiral and who will replace Admiral Manuel Hernando Avendano Galvis.

Avendano was replaced because, according to the organization of the institution, there cannot be two admirals at the same time. One of the two had to retire.

Vice Admiral Enrique Ospina was appointed the second commander of the Navy. Ospina is currently the number three military man in command of the institution.

Moreover, the government ordered that Major General Rafael Padilla Vergara, commander of the Army's 2d Division based in Bucaramanga, be sent to the reserves. He will be replaced by Major General Hernan Jose Guzman Rodriguez, currently military chief in the Uraba region.

Padilla's replacement stirred some controversy. Up until a week ago, he seemed to be one of the most secure commanders of the National Army. He was also a candidate for occupying the post of military chief in the Uraba region.

Although the reasons for his departure are unknown, it was revealed that on 21 November, Padilla was called to Bogota by the defense minister. He returned to Bucaramanga on 24 November to turn over his post.

In addition, Major General Ernesto Lopez Ramirez will retire from active service. Currently, Lopez is Colombia's representative to the Inter-American Defense Board in Washington. He will be replaced by Major General Daniel Garcia Echeverri, currently the number two commander of the Army.

Major General Manuel Murillo Gonzalez was appointed the number two commander of the Army. Murillo is currently secretary general of the Defense Ministry.

Major General Luis Alberto Rodriguez Rodriguez, director of the Army War College in Bogota, was appointed secretary general of the Defense Ministry.

Major General Alfonso Vacca Perilla, currently commander of the 5th Brigade in Bucaramanga, will now head the Army's 1st Division in Santa Marta.

Moreover, Brigadier General Roberto Ibanez was ratified in his post as under secretary of the Defense Ministry. He will be promoted to major general in December.

Brigadier General Flavio Jimenez, currently recruitment director of the Army, has been promoted to major general and will become inspector general of the Army.

According to the same decree, Major General Farouk Yanine Diaz was ratified in his post as inspector general of the Armed Forces.

These promotions will be made during a special ceremony headed by President Virgilio Barco on 3 December.

Basque Terrorist Group Directed Car Bomb Attack

PA0812202489 Hamburg DPA in Spanish
1855 GMT 8 Dec 89

[Text] Bogota, 8 Dec (DPA)—The car bomb attack on 6 December which destroyed the building that houses the Administrative Department of Security (DAS, secret police) had been planned since last September, according to official disclosures.

A police spokesperson confirmed today that the bus used in the terrorist action was bought by a man who is a native of Medellin. He used false documents to buy the car from a school director in Bogota.

According to the authorities, the buyer, who is a member of the sinister Medellin Cartel, was instructed by terrorists abroad to explode 500 kg of dynamite gel in front of the headquarters of the country's principal security organization.

DAS Director Brigadier General Miguel Maza Marquez said on 7 December that a member of the separatist ETA [Basque Fatherland and Liberty] group directed the operation.

Maza Marquez also said that Pablo Escobar Gaviria and Gonzalo Rodriguez Gacha, the world's biggest drug traffickers, "are behind this criminal attack."

"The Medellin Cartel planned the attack since September, after another car bomb attempt to assassinate Maza Marquez was foiled last May," the police spokesperson stated.

Meanwhile, three persons suspected of participating in the attack were released on 7 December, after being found innocent. Two other persons are being held by the police and are undergoing intense questioning.

The authorities also confirmed that the number of victims is 59 and not 62, as was reported officially on 7 December.

Civil Defense and Red Cross crews, as well as Armed Forces units, are removing the rubble from a 2-km perimeter, fearing that people may be trapped beneath tons of iron and cement.

Suspects in Newspaper Owner's Murder Arrested

PA1112135989 Bogota Radio Cadena Nacional in Spanish 1217 GMT 11 Dec 89

[Text] Tulua—The three suspects detained last night following the killing of journalist Jose Espejo Rodriguez have been arrested. The 45-year-old journalist was killed in the area known as Parador de las Acacias on the main road to Buga, Valle del Cauca Department. Espejo Rodriguez was shot four times, and it was reported that he died instantly. He was owner and director of EL TABLOIDE, the most important newspaper published in the Valle del Cauca.

Two Policemen Killed in Terrorist Attack

PA0912041589 Bogota Radio Cadena Nacional in Spanish 1225 GMT 7 Dec 89

[Report by (Carlos Mouton) from Cartagena, Bolivar Department]

[Text] Two policemen were killed during a terrorist attack minutes ago along the road to Lapopa Hill. A homemade bazooka, which was fired by pulling a string from about 5 meters away, set off an explosive in the path of National Police patrol car number 7-11 that was bringing relief personnel to the Lapopa Hill area and a local convent.

The explosion impacted on the windshield of the patrol car that crashed against several trees. Policeman Rafael Gonzalez Castro and a sergeant were killed and another policeman was injured. Policemen and Marines are now implementing a full-blown operation in the area.

Workers Human Rights Defense Group Created

PA1012130589 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0727 GMT 5 Dec 89

[Text] Bogota, 4 Dec (EFE)—Sources from the presidency of the Republic reported today that four labor confederations and the Colombian Government have formed the Labor Inter-Institutional Group (Grupo Interistitucional Laboral—GRIL), whose task will be to investigate human rights violations affecting workers.

The GRIL is formed by delegates of the Ministries of Labor and Government, the Presidential Advisory Board for Human Rights, the Attorney General's Office on Human Rights, the Foundation for Aid to Victims of Violence, and labor confederations.

With today's creation of GRIL, the United Workers Federation (CUT), the General Confederation of Labor (CGT), the Confederation of Colombian Workers (CTC), and the Union of Colombian Workers (UTC) denounced the worsening of violence perpetrated against labor union leaders by extreme-right paramilitary groups, especially in Cordoba Department in northwest Colombia.

The Presidential Advisory Board for Human Rights promised to deliver to GRIL before 15 December a census on the human rights violations to expedite the group's task.